

•SPRING HAS ARRIVED - YEAH!



AGAWAM

Advertiser

55°C

Volume XIX Number 12

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Agawam Public Library
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Agawam, MA 01001

Your Hometown Newspaper

March 21, 1996

School Choice Arrives In Town To Save Money

by Kathy Cassanelli
News Editor

For the first time since the state introduced the School Choice Program as part of Education Reform, Agawam will accept a limited number of students from other school districts.

Even though some School Committee members expressed concern with adding to overcrowding in the town's schools, the vote was 5-2 in favor of accepting 25 school choice students next year.

At the March 12th meeting, Chairman (Mayor) Christopher C. Johnson, along with members Louis Massoia, Rosemary Sandlin, Linda Galarneau, and Susan Pettazzoni, voted in favor of opting into the school choice program. Voting against were members Teresa Kozloski and Roberta Doering.

Johnson said students would be accepted on a random basis, but the superintendent would review student discipline records. Students who had been expelled from other schools or suspended for serious infractions dealing with drugs or weapons would not be accepted.

Johnson said it was important for the school system to set up clearly defined criteria for excluding students based on their disciplinary records, and that students could not be excluded for minor infractions of school rules.

SEE SCHOOL CHOICE - Page 2...

Police Opening Up Headquarters To Civilian Classes

by Kathy Cassanelli
News Editor

Most people have little idea of what goes on behind the front desk at the police station. But, that's about to change in Agawam.

As another step in his commitment to the concept of community policing as a partnership between law enforcement officers and the community they serve, Police Chief Robert Campbell said his department will be conducting its first Civilian Police Academy next month.

Campbell said the academy is not designed to train police officers. Rather, the 10-week course will give townspeople an opportunity to talk with the officers, exchange ideas, and open up lines of communication between the police officers and the townspeople.

Classes will be held at police headquarters starting on Tuesday, April 2nd, from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. for 10 consecutive weeks.

The classes will cover every aspect of police work from the dispatch desk to the investigative process used at crime scenes. It will include topics like juvenile issues, use of force and officer safety, patrol procedures, and crime prevention strategies.

Campbell said the academy was being organized by Safety Officer (Sergeant) Steven Draghetti and was modeled on successful programs run by the police departments in Northampton and in several towns on Cape Cod.

SEE POLICE - Page 2...

Nancy Dell Appears At Clark School



WELL-KNOWN DIETITIAN and TV-22 health reporter NANCY DELL spoke to third graders in Room 22 at James Clark School recently. The kids were told about the importance of eating their fruits and vegetables and to maintain a diet that is not filled with junk food. Students in photo with Nancy Dell are, from left - Mark LeClair, Joey DeLuca, Emily Gordon, and Corinne Cardin. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Art Exhibition At Agawam Senior Center



SHOWING THEIR TALENTS at a recent Art Exhibit at the Agawam Senior Center were the center's very own art students, including (from left) Betty Lee Meiers, Billie Muncy, Pat Buoniconti, and Alice Fournier. RELATED PHOTO IN FAMILIES SECTION. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

SCHOOL CHOICE - from Page 1...

Johnson said Agawam stands to lose about \$75,000 in state funding because the Department of Education intentionally set up the school choice program to include financial disincentives for systems who do not accept out-of-district students.

Even if a school district does not join the choice program, students from the district can still choose to go to school in another district that accepts school choice students. When students leave their home district, most of the per pupil state aid goes with them.

Superintendent of Schools Bernard Ryder said he was proposing to accept the same number of students under school choice as are currently leaving Agawam to attend school in other districts.

Not Satisfied With Certain Circumstances...

Ryder said some students leave Agawam for the convenience of working parents, but some leave because they are not satisfied with certain circumstances here.

"We're losing students and I'm suggesting we get students back," Ryder said. "Two students per grade level are not going to cause an overload in any class."

At the elementary level, Ryder said it would be under his control to decide which of the four elementary schools would accept school choice students.

Ryder said he was gambling on the class loads just as he does every year, but two students per grade would not overpopulate any one grade level.

Johnson said the money the town would receive for accepting school choice students has not been figured into the budget and could be spent on computers, textbooks, and furniture.

Mrs. Kozloski said the school system should not add to the overcrowded classrooms.

"I don't see how the advantage of having smaller classes can be set off by the money that would come in," Mrs. Kozloski said.

Mrs. Kozloski said the decision to join the School Choice Program should be advertised so that students all over the Pioneer Valley will know that Agawam has joined school choice.

POLICE - from Page 1...

Campbell said the program has been so successful in other communities that he is expecting the 15 available seats in the academy to fill up quickly and a waiting list will be needed.

There is no fee for the classes.

Application Deadline Is March 26th

Applications for the academy can be picked up at the police station, and the deadline for applying is March 26th. There will be a quick background check because the academy members will be entering and using areas normally closed to the public, Draghetti said.

The training officers are planning to set up some simulations to give the academy par-

ticipants a sense of what it's like to search for a suspect, handcuff a passively resisting prisoner, dust for fingerprints, and take an emergency 911 call, Draghetti said.

"We're opening our doors to the people in town to give them a firsthand look at what's going on in the police department—to see where their tax dollars are being spent," Draghetti said. "We want people to come prepared to ask questions."

The program will be run by the officers working in each area of expertise who have volunteered their time, Campbell said.

"It was very heartening to see the officers come forward to volunteer," Campbell said. "That concept of doing no more than the minimum doesn't apply here. We have an outstanding group of men and women working here."

Connecticut Riverwalk & Bikeway Committee Elects Chairperson

The Connecticut Riverwalk and Bikeway Committee—created through a Memorandum of Agreement signed by Agawam, Chicopee, Longmeadow, Springfield, and West Springfield—has elected a new Chairperson, Deborah Dachos, Agawam's Director of Planning and Community Development.

Dachos replaces Eleanor Cress, former Springfield Director of Government Relations, as the new Chair of the Connecticut Riverwalk Committee.

The Committee, which was created in the Spring of 1995, has been successful in obtaining commitments from the State and Federal government for over \$3.5 million to design and construct portions of the Riverwalk in Springfield and Agawam.

Dachos states that her primary goal is to seek townwide support for the Agawam Riverwalk. Meetings will be held in neighborhoods along River Road to solicit input from the residents.

Unlike the Springfield portion of the Riverwalk (which will include an esplanade and will be directly linked to plans for the expansion of the Basketball Hall of Fame), the Agawam Riverwalk is envisioned to be a neighborhood recreational facility which will be designed around the wishes of the River Road and adjacent neighborhood residents.

For additional information regarding the upcoming meetings or to sign up for the mailing list, call the Agawam Planning Office at 786-0400, extension 283.

Remember — our deadline is each Tuesday at 12:00 noon. Thank you!

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Appeals will conduct a public hearing at the Agawam Middle School Cafeteria, 68 Main St., Agawam, on THURSDAY, MARCH 28, 1996 at 6:30 P.M. for all parties interested in the appeal of MR. JAMES VOTZAKIS who is seeking a Special Per-

**TOWN OF AGAWAM
BOARD OF APPEALS**

mit in accordance with Section 180-7, Paragraph B2 of the Zoning Ordinances, which would allow altering the use, a recording studio, at the premises identified as 779 MILL STREET.

Ronald Hebert, Chairman

Published: March 21, 1996

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Cup of Soup or House Salad - **\$1.75**

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GRILLED CHEESE - Simple & tasty. **\$2.50**
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ON THE AVENUE'S FISH & CHIPS - A Beer Battered Fresh Fish deep Fried and served w/Fries & Cole Slaw. **\$5.50**
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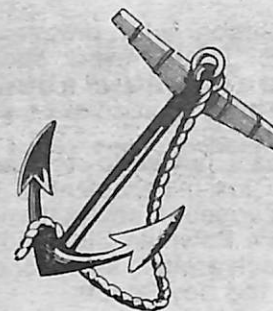
GRILLED CHICKEN - Marinated in an Italian dressing, served w/Rice. **\$5.25**
BONELESS PORK CHOP - Grilled with our house seasoning served w/Rice. **\$5.75**
HOT TURKEY - Over Rice & Gravy served w/Cranberry. **\$4.95**

Our Dinner Menu Begins... ONE IF BY LAND

It will be our pleasure to serve any of our "Land" selections either Traditionally, Blackened or "Avenue" style.

Filet Mignon (10 oz.) - **\$13.95**
Top Sirloin (10 oz.) - **\$10.50**
New York Strip Sirloin (10 oz.) - **\$12.95**
Pork Chop Center Cuts - **\$9.95**

Grilled Chicken Breast - **\$9.95**
Prime Rib
16 oz. King Cut - **\$15.95**
10 oz. Regular Cut - **\$11.95**



TWO IF BY SEA

Fresh Baked Fish of the day - **\$9.95**
A flaky fillet layered with our seasoned bread crumbs.
Fresh Baked Sea Scallops - **\$10.95**
Served piping hot with a touch of seasoned bread crumbs.
Baked Stuffed Shrimp - **\$12.95**
Jumbo white shrimp fillet with our crabmeat stuffing.

Grilled Swordfish - **\$11.95**
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New York Strip Sirloin
Grilled Chicken
Prime Rib

Baked Stuffed Shrimp
Baked Sea Scallops
Grilled Swordfish
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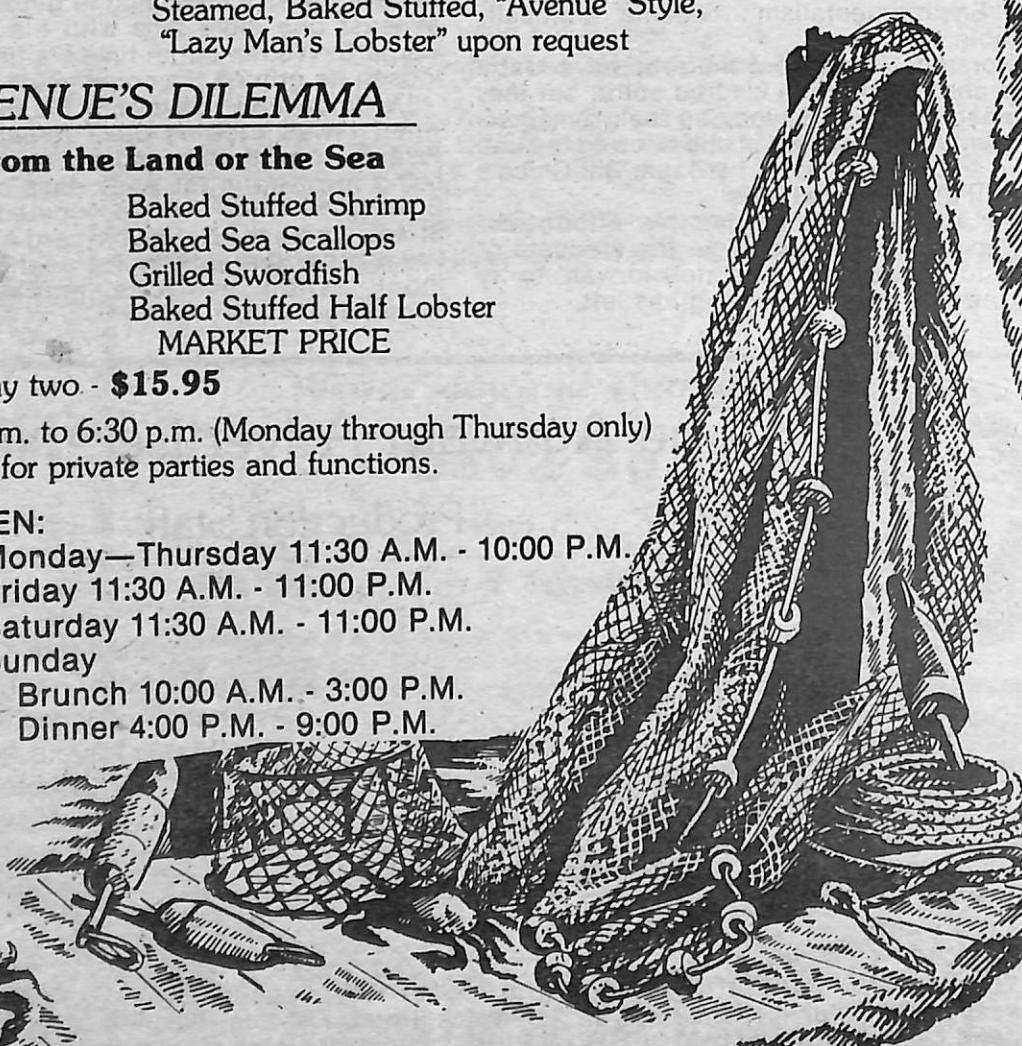
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Sunday

Brunch 10:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

Dinner 4:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.



Commentary...

Town Councilors Have Enough To Keep Them Busy

by Kathy Cassanelli
News Editor

You have to wonder when the games will finally be left where they belong—on the playground.

Judging from the response of some town councilors to the make-up of the superintendent application screening committee, we may never see an end to, "Oh yeah? Well, I'm taking my ball and going home."

Some councilors really, really, really wanted to be on the committee, but the School Committee (Bravo!) said it would not set aside a slot on the screening committee for a town councilor.

Why? Too much of a chance of interjecting politics into the search for a new school chief and besides, the School Committee is elected to run the school system—Town Council is elected to do something else entirely.

The School Committee said it was a better idea to have two slots on the screening committee for parents and town residents. They were right.

For one thing, town councilors are all residents of Agawam and will have just as much chance of being selected as anyone else.

But, more importantly, the people who are most qualified for the tedious job of narrowing down the field of applicants are the same people who have been actively working to improve our schools through the PTO's and school councils long before Bernard Ryder even announced his decision to retire in August.

The people who deserve a chance to assist in the superintendent search process are the same people who do more than talk about the best interest of the children and what should be done to improve our school system—they actually do something about it. Every day.

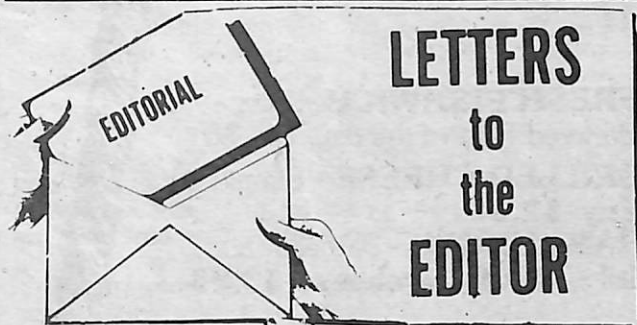
And now it seems that the very town councilors professing their great concern for the children of Agawam are talking about increased scrutiny of

the School Budget and strained relations between the School Committee and Town Council—all because they didn't get their own way.

What is going on here? This does nothing but confirm our worst fears of politicizing an issue of paramount importance to the future of our school system and, therefore, the future of our town.

The School Committee should be allowed to do the job it was elected to do without fear of reprisals.

Town councilors, do your own job. There's plenty to keep you busy; like how about the zoning reform we've been hearing about as long as memory serves. Maybe if the council focused on the problems with a zoning code written for the 1950's, people would stop blaming developers for your lack of foresight and unwillingness to take on a messy job that will never please everyone.



Bill Chiba May Be Gone, But He Is Not Forgotten

To The Editor:

Bill Chiba passed away on Tuesday, March 12, 1996. This was a sad day for sportsmen; not just those of us from Agawam, but throughout the Northeast.

Every person who enjoys the splendor of nature, along with every sportsman who has shouldered a rifle, drawn a bow, or enjoyed a day on a quiet trout stream, owes a debt of gratitude to this man.

Bill Chiba's service to his Country during World War II and his involvement in conservation and sportsmen's issues are well known. He founded the Agawam Bowmen Club and developed a program to teach archery skills for disabled children, as well as the Boy Scouts.

Bill helped to found the McLaughlin Fish Hatchery and was involved in so many other projects that benefitted the region, that there is not sufficient space to list them all. His weekly "Sportsman's Corner" in *The Agawam Advertiser* was considered "Must Reading" for area sportsmen.

Bill Chiba was a defender of sportsman's rights and was a champion for a clean environment; long before "Environmentalism" became politically fashionable.

Outdoorsmen throughout the area have lost a friend, a champion and a kindred spirit, but they have gained a legacy. So long as their remains a red-blooded American who is still allowed to hunt, fish, and enjoy our outdoor heritage, Bill Chiba's legacy will always be with us.

Bill cannot be replaced, but his efforts and dedication will serve to become the standard of measure for those who must step forward to try and fill the void that his passing has left.

Bill Chiba is gone now, but is certainly not forgotten. His spirit still dances in his favorite trout stream. Thanks, Bill, for all that you have done for sportsmen of all ages.

Kent Servis
Feeding Hills

Resident Says Bill Chiba's Friendship Touched His Life

To The Editor:

I was sad to hear about the loss of our avid outdoorsman, Bill Chiba. He wrote about a deer I took in the 1994 archery season.

After sending him a short story and a photograph, Bill personally called me to ask some questions about my upcoming story. The conversation seemed too short. We talked about upcoming seasons and even traded some secrets.

It feels like I knew him for a lifetime. It's the little things that mean so much. I would like to thank Bill for touching my life with his friendship and his weekly column.

Your Friend,
Shane Adams
Agawam

Saying Good-Bye To A Lifelong Friend, Bill Chiba

To The Editor:

I was greatly saddened to hear of the death of "Billy" Chiba. Bill had been sick for a very long time, but fought the good fight.

I spoke on the phone with Bill a couple of weeks ago. I promised as soon as the weather warmed, I'd get him out to take a ride and find some turkeys. I was also hoping to get him out fishing, at least one more time with his partner, Angie Borgatti. We ran out of time waiting for winter to loosen its grip on the countryside.

I've known Billy all my life. He was our mailman when I was growing up. I remember Bill, Doc Pisano, John Kudlic, and my uncle, Ed Goyette, being involved in the early days of the Agawam Bowman's Club. It was located on Maynard Street, where the National Guard Armory is today. I remember the old days of deer hunting in Vermont, when everyone made the annual pilgrimage.

My deepest condolences to Edie and the rest of the Chiba family. Bill was a gentleman and a good friend to many others.

Billy, I hope that Doc Pisano and Bonum Goyette are waiting for you at the "pearly gates" with a new pack of lies about the hunting and fishing in heaven. Here's hoping the seasons are long and the bag limits generous. We'll miss you and may God bless.

Don Loncto
Feeding Hills

A Heartfelt Thanks To Those At Epilepsy Dinner Dance

To The Editor:

We, along with the Michael Pietroniro Fundraising Committee, would like to express our deepest thanks to all who attended the Epilepsy Dinner Dance on March 9th.

SEE LETTERS - Page 6...

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Sponsored By
COLONIAL FUNERAL HOME

Saturday, March 23rd
"Annual Record Hop" to
benefit Cub Scout Pack 75
At Springfield Turnverein
8:00 p.m. to 12:00 midnight

Sunday, March 24th
"Cut-A-Thon" sponsored
by Operation Friendship
At F.H. Congregational Church,
21 N. Westfield St., Feeding Hills
11:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Call 789-0032 for an appointment;
however, walk-ins are also welcome

Monday, March 25th
Agawam Women's Club meeting
At Captain Leonard House,
Main Street, Agawam
7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 27th
Parents' meeting sponsored
by Agawam Little League
At Italian Sporting Club,
349 Cooper Street, Agawam
7:00 p.m.

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LETTERS - from Page 4...

We would like to recognize our very good friends who were at the "Ruby/Martel" table for their generosity. They left their raffle tickets with us and told us that if they won, to donate the money back to the Epilepsy Fundraiser. Well, they won!

We don't know whose ticket it was, but it was worth over \$500. Thank you again for the donation, but we thank you even more for your friendship, support, and belief.

Thank you, Michelle and Todd, Jan and Mike, Mary and Dave, Angel and Tom, and Kathy and Barry.

Kim and Rick Martel
Feeding Hills

What Is City Council's "Official" Stand On BP?

To The Editor:

In recent weeks, several members of the Berkshire Power-financed publicity department of Berkshire Power, known as CATS, keep insisting we provide evidence to support what we say.

As anyone who watches the Council meetings knows, we always show and provide the documentation to prove our statements. We have offered to everyone, including CATS members, the signed documents, official transcripts, videotapes, and other official material we have as proof.

On the other hand, those who support Berkshire Power by criticizing us have never been able to substantiate anything they have said. I don't really blame them for succumbing to Berkshire Power's glib talk and false impressions. I only wish that they would actually look at the documented proof instead of just listening to Berkshire Power's verbal powers of persuasion.

Remember, I was one of the first to publicly support Berkshire Power until I personally investigated them and found out they were not what they seemed.

I'm sure if those who have ignored the facts are truly and sincerely concerned about the best interest of our community, they will do as many of us have and investigate. They would surely look at Berkshire Power differently if they did.

Concerning the subject of honesty, I would like the City Council to make an honest person out of Kevin O'Reilly. Remember, O'Reilly is the Public Relations person for Berkshire Power who has publicly called the residents of Agawam stupid, among other things.

O'Reilly is also managing director of the polling company that Berkshire Power uses for its loaded and misleading polls. O'Reilly recently made many misstatements on a local radio show. One falsehood was that the Agawam City Council twice supported Berkshire Power.

Fact is, the Agawam City Council, especially this one, has never taken an official stand on whether or not they support the power plant. So, to help put Mr. O'Reilly on the road to honesty, I

am requesting that a member of the Agawam City Council place a resolution on their agenda stating the Council's official position on the power plant.

The people of Agawam have the right to know where their public officials stand on this issue.

Thank you,
Louis J. Russo
Feeding Hills

Coach Mike Martin Will Be Missed At The High School

To The Editor:

To Athletic Director Kathleen McSweeney:

My name is Erich Fogg and I am a 1989 graduate of Agawam High School. I am currently a graduate student at Emory University's School of Medicine in Atlanta, Georgia. I am writing this letter in response to the recent dismissal of Coach Mike Martin.

I was privileged to play for Coach Martin as a member of the boys' varsity basketball team for three years, serving as captain my senior year. I was motivated to write you this letter and convey what Coach Martin means to me as a coach, mentor, and friend.

Coach Martin has been one of the most influential people in my life to date. He stressed the importance of sacrifice, hard work, and determination; qualities that are essential for success.

He demanded dedication and commitment from all of his athletes. Often the lessons I learned from him were more about life than they were about basketball.

Coach Martin's strong passion for the game and love of his players are often misunderstood. His coaching style, which seems abrasive at times, is his way of getting the most out of his athletes.

The bottom line is that he cares more about his players than he does about wins or losses. Personally, he was very hard on me throughout my career at Agawam High School, but it is in retrospect that I appreciate his true intentions. We have developed a strong friendship since my graduation.

In closing, for the last two decades Mike Martin has been one of the most respected and successful coaches in Western Massachusetts. I feel strongly that he will be missed at Agawam High School.

I thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Erich A. Fogg
Stone Mountain, Georgia

Bike Trail Would Be A Benefit To River Road Area

To The Editor:

In 1994 and lately in the newspaper, Springfield announced the state putting a bike trail along the river. This included the Town of Agawam and communities north of Springfield. The plan was discussed at a city council meeting by an agency back in 1994 in great detail. I recall the topic clearly as it affected my area of town. This bike trail is nothing new and, again, it's a state issue. River Road is a state highway, not a road maintained by our local government.

Last fall, the citizens along River Road, Clifton Drive, Ruth and Merrill gathered to discuss the topic with our local police department during a crime watch meeting. Sergeant Draghetti informed us as to what we might expect if a bike trail were put along the River and what we as citizens could do if crime should increase. Many of the citizens didn't feel this was a concern. More problems came from delinquents in the neighborhoods who were using drugs.

NO ONE AT THE MEETING WAS OPPOSED TO THE BIKE TRAIL. Many residents along the river are looking for a way of beautifying the river bank. How the state proposes to do it is beyond us.

Why are we for it?

a. All attempts by citizens to clean up the river bank and to landscape the bank has been met with resistance by some of the neighbors. Claims were filed that we were accelerating the erosion of the river bank. The brush is now overgrown ruining any recreational enjoyment by the community.

b. The poison ivy along the river grows rapid. Children are covered from head to toe every summer because, like most children, the excitement of a river attracts them as a playing ground or a park. I wanted to clean out the ivy across from my home and make a picnic area, but it's an impossible job. If the state can do it, how grand for us all.

c. Many hoodlums from across the river try to use the river to escape the police. A clean riverfront will prevent criminals from using it as a hideout.

d. In an unselfish effort, the river should be enjoyed by all community residents. Many citizens jog along the river now, enjoying the sunshine glistening on the water. Bikers should be able to enjoy the same without the fear of oncoming cars. In an effort to stronger family ties among siblings, a family outing along the river is a grand idea.

Cindy L. Sanford
River Road Resident

SEE LETTERS - Page 7...

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From Your Staff

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Written by:
Laura L. DeBarge
Asst. Manager

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LETTERS - from Page 6...

Councilor Bitzas Should Back Up Accusations With Facts

To The Editor:

"The Board's failure to grant approval of the project under Section 180-63 prevents Berkshire from moving forward on the project..." as signed by Ken Roberts of Berkshire Power, under the penalties of perjury, Feb. 15, 1996 as printed: Town of Agawam, Law Department Memorandum to Agawam Town Council, February 22, 1996.

"It is undisputed that Berkshire has received such majority approval. Accordingly, Berkshire has already obtained the required approval from the Board as a matter of law."-as quoted by representatives of Berkshire Power in *The AAN*, February 29, 1996.

Is it me, or do these two statements contradict each other?

In *The AAN* of March 7, 1996, Councilor George Bitzas accused me of "attacking with (our) usual misinformation and false accusations." Well, one of the above statements is "misinformation." Which one is it Councilor?

When I spoke in front of the Agawam Town Council on March 6, 1996, I prefaced my remarks by stating that my letter to the Editor in *The AAN* of March 7, 1996 was not a personal attack of Kathy Cassanelli or *The AAN*. Not once did I question the "...fairness, open minds and professionalism..." of Kathy Cassanelli, or *The AAN*. Apparently Councilor, you were not paying attention.

Berkshire Power representatives said, in the motions filed in Hampden Superior Court, that they "...have already obtained approval as a matter of law..." Yet Ken Roberts said under penalty of perjury, "...the Board's failure to grant approval...prevents Berkshire from moving forward on the project." Why all the double talk from Berkshire Power?

Now Councilor Bitzas, I was not criticizing *The AAN* for reporting these statements. I was criticizing Berkshire for making them.

The last sentence of the Editor's note, in response to my letter of March 7, 1996, states that "...The AAN will give its readers an equally accurate account of the City's motion opposing Berkshire Power as soon as it's available."

The first quote of my letter comes from the City's response. It has been available for three weeks! *The AAN* has not yet responded to or printed the City's motion.

Councilor Bitzas, I am not telling *The AAN* how to report the news as you accused me of doing. Rather, a great majority of residents request that, "*The AAN* gives its readers an equally accurate account of the City's motion, opposing Berkshire Power's position as soon as it becomes available." We hope it is forthcoming in this March 21, 1996 edition.

Finally, Councilor Bitzas, this is between you and me. Although I have criticized you in the past, I have done so with either your quotes or your votes as a member of the Agawam Town Council. I have never directed criticism of you, George Bitzas, as a private citizen. You have attacked me personally and publicly, saying in print, that I "...use the council microphone and (my) pen to complain and attack with ... usual misinformation and false accusations."

I will not stand by and be personally attacked by you, Councilor. Be more specific! Back up your attack of me with facts. As a member of the Town

Council, you have no business attacking a private citizen without facts to back them up.

I fully expect to see the proof of your accusations, or your apology in the March 28th edition of *The AAN*, but I doubt if I'll see either.

It's time to put up or shut up, Councilor Bitzas!

Sincerely,
Ken Fornl
Agawam

Teacher Appreciates Pupils' Expressions Of Concern

To The Editor:

To The Students In Rooms 314, 313, 312, & 311 And Their Parents:

So many times young people are criticized for the way they dress, the music they listen to, the way they act, and the way they are often self-centered. The negative is so often accentuated rather than the positive. I would like to share with you my recent experience.

Students in my classes at the Agawam Middle School knew that Friday, March 15th, was my last

day of teaching for the rest of the school year as I was to undergo surgery. When the children started entering the room Friday morning, they were up at my desk with cards, gifts, words of concern and comfort, and hugs.

Others went to the board and put up a banner that one of my girls made and wrote messages to me on it and on the board. This went on nonstop all day long wherever I was. Tears were in many eyes and especially in mine. I was overwhelmed by their concern, their good wishes, and their caring.

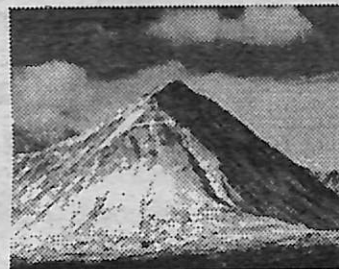
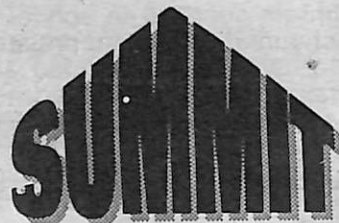
I want to let the parents and the citizens of Agawam know the kind of children we have. We have reason to be proud. I want to especially thank each and every one of my students for giving me the best present of all—to know that I have had some impact on their lives as they have had in mine.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Phyllis Ferrari
6th Grade Teacher
Agawam Middle School

SEE LETTERS - Page 8...

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LETTERS - from Page 7...

Students Are Ultimately Responsible For Education

To The Editor:

Much has been said over the last few months about the state of education in Agawam. Some comments have focused on the obvious problems in our system while others have prompted us to concentrate on the positives in our schools.

The fact is, there are problems and accomplishments and one does not cancel out the other. The problems won't go away simply by concentrating on the successes nor are the successes cheapened by the presence of problems.

Both must be looked at by parents, administration, teachers, school committee, and town council.

Just look at the ever-expanding lists of students accepted into college, including some of the most selective schools in the country which accept less than half of the applicants. For example, two Agawam students received appointments to military academies last year. If the quality of these students and their education was not up to par, they would not have been accepted.

In fact, these students were accepted even though class sizes are continuing to grow in our system and we are falling further and further behind in supplies and technology due to the increased cost of these items.

Teachers and students are doing everything they can to succeed under very difficult circumstances. Parents must continue to remain involved as they have been in the system as a whole and in the educational lives of their sons and daughters.

If a legitimate problem arises, we must focus our attention on it. Class sizes must be reduced by hiring more staff. Outdated textbooks must be replaced. Training must be provided to our staff in the newest teaching methods. If there is a \$300,000 need to improve our computer offerings and hardware, then this money must be found.

Much has also been said about test scores which are reported as an "average." To put it simply, if one student scores a 600 in math on the S.A.T. and another scores a 300, the average is reported as 450. Forgotten in this discussion on "average" is the fact that the High School presented a quality education so that a student who worked hard and took challenging college preparatory courses could succeed at a high level.

We need to look at a "mean" scoring of the test. How many students scored at each level, 500, 600, 700, etc.? Then we need to examine the students who scored below 500. Did they take college preparatory courses and what was their achievement level in these courses?

For example, a student who only works to get a C but is capable of honor roll grades will also not work to score higher on the S.A.T. test or do the review necessary after the P.S.A.T. results are received. The question is, "Will that student purchase an S.A.T. book and do all the practice tests?"

This kind of analysis will allow us to identify and work with students who need assistance before taking the test again. In this way, they can hopefully improve without condemning the whole system as not producing quality students and then using this as an excuse not to fund necessary improvement.

In all the discussions of the last few months, little or no emphasis has been placed on improving "student responsibility." A welcomed exception

to this was Mrs. Serafino's excellent address to the School Committee on March 12th. On the contrary, most of the discussion has centered on blaming everybody but the students, as if they had no part in the process.

There is an ever-increasing number of students who choose to skip homework and proper study for tests. Many have the attitude that if "I don't like it, I don't have to do it," or if "I don't see any value to it personally, I don't have to do my best on it."

Obviously, this is not the attitude of all students, as shown by the many students who succeed at Agawam High. But it is the attitude of a growing number and these students can have a negative effect on test scores, especially if you use "average reporting."

Students need to be made responsible for their own test results. Most teachers don't fail students. Students fail themselves. Teachers and parents are not responsible for missing work or a lack of preparation on tests. But we are responsible for making students receive the consequences of their actions, good or bad.

If a student fails after all the teachers and parental intervention, then that student fails. Only by stressing student responsibility and consequences will be able to make lasting improvement in test scores.

Improved teaching methods, new technology, longer school years and days are important and necessary changes, but they will not change the students who do not want to change. Those students who do well now will continue to do well and may even achieve at a higher level. On the other hand, those students who choose not to do homework now will not accept the challenge of "more work" until they accept personal responsibility for their education.

Let's all work together to make improvements in our system without the "Blame Game." Additional money is needed to solve legitimate needs like staffing and computers. But we must also use the many student achievements like the *Mirror's* number one rating to stress and praise teacher and student accomplishments.

It is easier to have a "War of Words" between the Council and School Committee than to roll up our sleeves and cooperate with each other. We must find the means to continue the improvement of the best legacy Agawam can give to its young citizens—a quality education.

I personally would like to thank the many dedicated teachers and administrators who helped my daughters succeed in school. It was the staff's many hours of work that prepared Colleen and Beth to handle the workload at Roger Williams University and Smith College, respectively.

This effort is available to all students, college bound or not. It is up to the student to respond to the help by doing the work required of them to the best of their ability.

Frank Meagher
Feeding Hills

VFW Ladies' Auxiliary Says Thanks To Veterans Agent

To The Editor:

The Ladies Auxiliary to Barcomb Trowbridge VFW (Number 6714 in West Springfield) heartily thanks Veterans' Agent Ruth Bitzas for her informative discussion on veterans' support, etc. She suggested that the Auxiliary write letters on behalf of four House bills.

As Marie Stevens, Conductress, escorted Ruth Bitzas to the podium, instant applause was evident. The Auxiliary remembers other visits that this great veterans' agent has made to West Springfield to keep members abreast on how to support their veterans and voiced information to enable them with benefits (as wives and widows).

All the members are, at the present time, busy writing letters to their Senators and Representatives. Letters are also being written to American troops in Bosnia and elsewhere.

In other Auxiliary news, State President Diane Dello Iacono has appointed Cathy Domzalski as her Legislative Chairman, and reports will be mailed shortly.

Sincerely,
Rita Shea

President, Ladies Auxiliary to VFW 6714

Western Hampden District 1995 Veterans' Services Report

To The Editor:

As Director and Agent of the Veterans' Benefits and Veterans' Service Departments, I am pleased to submit my Annual Report for the year 1995.

In the year 1955, the State Commissioner of Veterans' Services felt that smaller towns in the State who could not afford a full-time Veterans Agent could be better served if they went into a district with other towns and had the service of a full-time Agent.

Western Hampden District started operating as a district with a full-time agent and a full-time staff person on January 1, 1956. I believe our district has set an example to communities throughout the State and, as a result, we now have 39 groups of towns in the commonwealth who have formed districts. Jointly, there are 244 towns either in a district or have full-time Agents.

I have worked diligently over the years as a member of the Legislative committee of the Mass. Veterans Service Agents Association to encourage formation of districts to better serve the veteran by providing more full-time Veteran Agent availability.

Under the provisions of Chapter 115, this office administers a program of financial and medical assistance to needy veterans and/or dependents based upon eligibility. The veteran needs to have served during a wartime period and be in receipt of an Honorable Discharge, meet the asset limitation and demonstrate need.

It is undoubtedly known that the Veterans' Department serves a dual purpose. In addition to accounting for and disbursing cash aid to qualified veterans, this office makes itself available for processing of numerous phases of veteran entitlement—such as pensions, eligibility verification reports, recording of discharges, rehabilitation, housing, insurance, education, employment, tax exemptions and counseling.

These services, which are available to all veterans, have definitely tended to ease the many problems confronting the present-day veteran who, through the current downsizing of companies, a slow job market and less job availability (other than entry-level, minimum-pay employment), have great concerns. It is staggering to note the numbers of individuals vying for a decent job. It's not unusual to have 30 or 40 applicants apply for one opening.

SEE LETTERS - Page 9...



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LETTERS - from Page 8...

Benefits received through the federal Department of Veterans Affairs have resulted in large savings to the towns. As an example, for 1995, through veteran pensions and widows' pensions, veterans residing in the Town of Agawam received \$106,398.00 in V.A. benefits claims developed and processed through this office—thus eliminating extra expenditures by local government.

Our district office is located in the Agawam Town Hall; the entrance to the office is located on the side of the building. As you enter the driveway, you will see our handicapped ramp and the sign "Western Hampden District." We encourage you to call for an appointment at (413) 786-0400, ext. 236 or 237.

One fundamental concept which should never be overlooked is that the veteran in all times and ages, and in all countries and especially in Massachusetts, is a special citizen and should be accorded special consideration. My sincere "Thank You" to the Town of Agawam for allowing me to serve the veterans of Agawam on your behalf.

Respectfully submitted,
Ruth Bitzas
Veterans' Agent

Power Plant Opponents Do Not Represent Agawam

To The Editor:

In response to a letter from Kenneth A. Forni that appeared in your March 7th edition, I would like to point out several flaws in his position regarding your article and the Berkshire Power lawsuit against the Town of Agawam.

First and foremost, it was quite clear that your newspaper was reporting on the specific contents of a lawsuit filed in Hampden County Superior Court against the Town of Agawam. Your paper obviously wasn't doing a story about opinions of various other factions interested in the power plant.

I appreciated the details of the lawsuit included in Kathy Cassanelli's AAN article. It was an excellent story.

In addition, neither Mr. Forni nor his "small but vocal group" represents the corporation known as the Town of Agawam. Since Berkshire Power has filed its lawsuit against the Town, it is the responsibility of the Town to respond to that suit, not Mr. Forni or his group. Furthermore, Mr. Forni is way off base challenging Berkshire Power and its attorneys to dispute the facts contained in the suit with himself or his group. The facts will be, and rightly should be, disputed with the Town's legal counsel in a court of competent jurisdiction where a judge will make a decision based on the facts and merits of the case rather than on knee-jerk, reactionary hysteria.

Section 180-63 of the Town Code governs the heights of structures in the Industrial B zone. Conspicuously absent from that section is the term "special permit." The section allows structures to exceed the height limit "with approval of the Board of Appeals after a public hearing." There is no mention of a special permit. According to state law, special permits require a unanimous vote of a three person board of appeals, whereas approvals after a public hearing require only a simple majority.

Although this may sound like semantics, many court cases are decided on the turn of a phrase. Apparently, this is the basis for Berkshire Power's lawsuit. Personally, I'll wait for the decision of the court, for it will have a greater impact on our future than Mr. Forni's letters criticizing Berkshire Power, our town officials, and your newspaper.

In taking your newspaper to task over a well-written, factual story, Mr. Forni has also demonstrated a failure to learn the fundamental lesson in public relations—one shouldn't argue with the people who buy ink by the barrel.

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A large assortment of vendors is wanted. Ranging from crafts, collectable, antiques, household goods, clothing, baby items, toys, tools, sport cards, cars, and recreational vehicles. If you have a need, we have a spot for you. Will be held in heated hall, outdoor pavilion, booths, parking lot, and lawn. Pricing from 15 to 25 cents per sq. ft.

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For more Information/Application call Don, (413) 786-6124.

Keep up the good work.

Cindy Sanford
Agawam

* This characterization of the group was given by Frank J. Lawlor during testimony before the Energy Facilities Siting Board.

Parent Expresses Concern Regarding School Choice

To The Editor:

I am writing this letter to express my feelings on the School Committee's decision to allow school choice in Agawam. I have been a resident for my entire life and a graduate of the Agawam School System.

I now have two young children and I am concerned that this decision will affect their future education in Agawam. We have never had school choice in Agawam and to start now just to gain \$75,000 from the state is foolish. I agree we do need money for new school books, supplies, and

other essentials. If this is the only plus the Mayor and School Committee see in school choice, they are badly mistaken. I have many more reasons against school choice that greatly outweigh this one positive.

First, we do not know who we are going to be getting in the school system from other schools. Sure, we can check records and transcripts but I am sure we may be getting some problem students from other school systems. Second, when students come in to Agawam, they are here to stay and we won't be able to send them back to their respective schools.

Third, there has been talk of putting a police officer in the High School to monitor some of the problems there. Well, by bringing students from other schools, they may add to our problems, i.e., drugs, violence.

Fourth, we hear so many complaints about overcrowding and yet we want to add more students to the classrooms. I realize that we are losing students and these students from out of town would be replacing them. We should look at why we are losing the ones that have left instead

SEE LETTERS - Page 10...

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LETTERS - from Page 9...

of trying to add new students.

Fifth, I also hear that our school system should be more diverse, and I say look at our schools now and see that they have much diversity. If these parents really want more diversity, maybe they should send their children to other school systems where they can achieve something that is already present in Agawam.

Sixth, I could probably take up a page or two more, but I will give one last point and that is, that the schools of Agawam are just that—schools for Agawam children. Since school choice has already been approved, I hope it will be voted down in a future year. If we continue to have school choice, I fear many parents may be looking into private schools for their children.

I would like to thank the School Committee members who voted down school choice, you have made the right decision.

Concerned Agawam Parent,
Todd Mazza

Cost-Cutting Measures Risk Reducing Quality Of Education

To The Editor:

I graduated valedictorian from Agawam High School in 1983, and went on to complete my undergraduate degree at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and earn graduate degrees from both the University of Pennsylvania and Johns Hopkins University.

Throughout my academic career and beyond, I have appreciated the education I received in the Agawam school system and have increasingly recognized the benefits of honors and advanced placement classes taught to me by many dedicated teachers in the system. These "varsity" level classes prepared me, like many others, for my subsequent education and, in doing so, played an important role in enhancing my ability to excel in my academic endeavors and thus introducing me to a wide range of career and academic opportunities.

I can only look with disappointment at the decisions taken recently by many School Board members to cut honors classes (e.g., the decision to eliminate honors English classes in the ninth and 10th grades) and to promote only heterogeneous groupings throughout the system. In order

to improve the aptitudes of and educational training received by students in the Agawam system, it is imperative to focus on brining up the "average" rather than grouping a greater number of students around a lower median level.

Rarely do you see school systems volunteering to reduce opportunities for sports teams and the like to excel to their highest potential; yet, shockingly, there is little resistance among certain School Board members to support such initiatives on the academic front.

I urge parents and students in Agawam to ask why and how a greater number of students can be encouraged to reach higher academic achievement with the aid of the Agawam school system and to question short-sighted, cost-cutting measures which risk reducing the quality of education received by Agawam students.

Sincerely,
Maria Kozloski

Currently a resident of Washington, DC
and an Investment Officer with The World Bank, a multilateral development organization

Power Plant Leaders Have An Obligation To Be Convincing

To The Editor:

I wish to say to the corporate gentlemen of Berkshire Power that you have an obligation to be convincing.

If you are so sure that the residents surrounding the proposed site of this plant would not be offended, harmed, or inconvenienced by the tall smoke stack, large amounts of stored chemicals, constant or frequent noise and other pollution, why don't some of you negotiate to buy some of these fine homes? Then you could enjoy the convenience of being close to your place of business.

I am sure you gentlemen are now living in luxurious spendor on fine estates in pristine natural surroundings with nice woodlands and a golf course nearby. Plus a minimum of air pollution. And why not? It certainly makes sense for you.

You are in favor of a clean, attractive environment for yourselves. So are the rest of us. But many of us are not so fortunate.

My best wishes to all of you.

Sincerely,
Rudolph H. Stone
Agawam

Representative Keenan Acts To Improve Services For Seniors

Acting to improve the coordination and delivery of services provided to the state's senior population, the Massachusetts House voted to adopt legislation to create Aging Service Access Points, commonly referred to as ASAPs.

"Prior to this, the state's long-term care services were fragmented and therefore difficult for seniors to find and to utilize," stated Representative Daniel F. Keenan. "This initiative will help provide seniors easier access to a coordinated and well-managed system that is also more cost-effective for taxpayers."

Under the plan, not only will the search for quality care become easier, but the emphasis will be shifted to caring for the state's estimated 1.1 million residents at home as opposed to in nursing homes or other institutions.

Rep. Keenan states that this will be accomplished through the establishment of regional ASAPs. Among the services that will be provided include informational assistance, needs' assessments, service delivery, and case management.

The new law will go a long way toward eliminating the confusion and red tape for elderly citizens. ASAPs will provide a one-stop shopping approach to senior services, helping to guarantee that seniors will receive the right service in the most cost-efficient manner.

This coordination and management of elderly services will allow people to remain in the most independent setting as long as possible.

"This effort will enhance the quality of life for seniors. As the fastest growing segment of our population, we must develop innovative programs such as ASAPs to ensure that the health care, safety, housing, and consumer needs of our elderly population are met by state government," concluded Rep. Keenan.

Best local news...

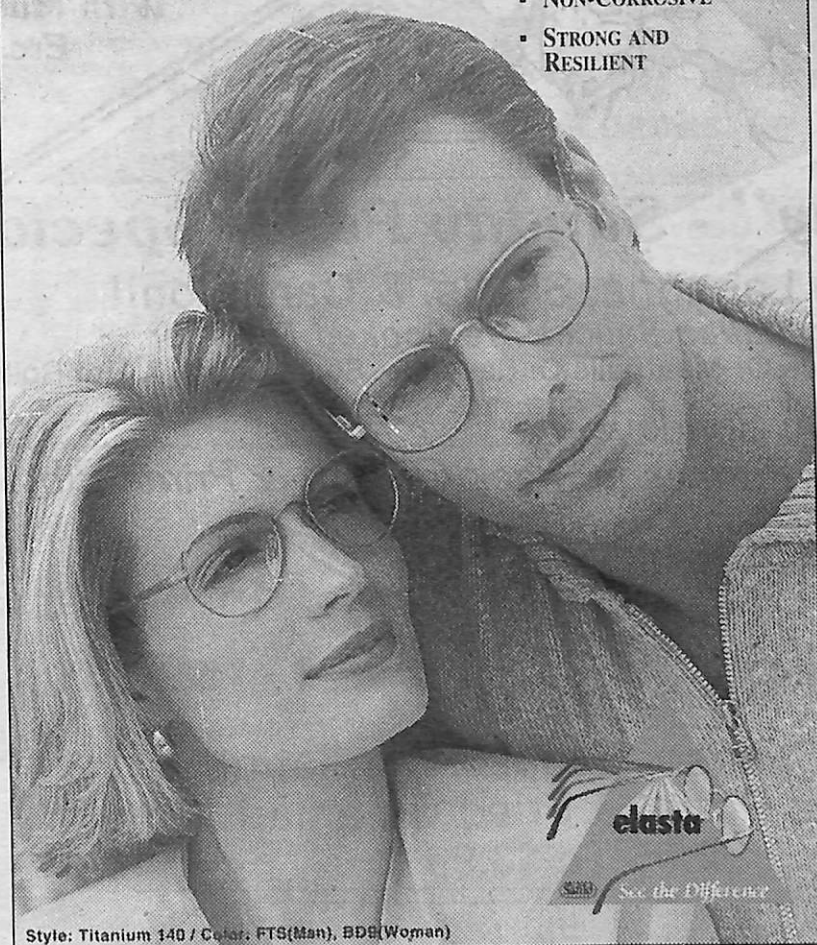
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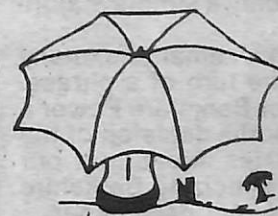
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School Dept. Holding The Line On Out-Of-District Vocational Ed.

by Kathy Cassanelli
News Editor

Starting next year, ninth graders who want to attend a vocational school will be sent to the Lower Pioneer Valley Educational Collaborative (LPVEC) Voc-Tech Center in Chicopee rather than to an out-of-district school, saving nearly \$150,000. Agawam is one of seven communities comprising the LPVEC.

At its March 12th meeting, the School Committee voted 5-2 in favor of sending ninth graders to the exploratory program at the LPVEC. In favor were School Committee Chairman (Mayor) Christopher G. Johnson and members Rosemary Sandlin, Louis Massoia, Linda Galarneau, and Susan Pettazzoni. Against were members Teresa Kozloski and Roberta Doering.

Based on an in-depth study of the LPVEC, which was recently reviewed by the School Committee, Superintendent of Schools Bernard F. Ryder recommended sending ninth graders to the collaborative. Students who are currently enrolled in out-of-district vocational schools will be allowed to continue.

In his budget message sent to the committee earlier this month, Ryder said he was not including \$146,300 for 20 ninth grade students to attend our district voc-tech schools. Funding for 10th through 12th graders already attending out-of-district vocational schools was included at a cost of \$246,763, not including transportation costs.

Last year, Ryder made a similar recommendation, but was overruled by the School Committee after parents complained that the LPVEC Program was not as good as the program offered at Westfield Voc-Tech High School.

Mrs. Kozloski urged her colleagues to give the students equal access to both schools by supporting a choice of programs.

Like Comparing Apples & Oranges

Mrs. Kozloski said comparing the two programs was like comparing apples and oranges. Mrs. Kozloski said Westfield Voke incorporates an integrated program with academics and hands-on opportunities for the students to sample the vocational programs.

For the first half of the year, students in the exploratory program at the collaborative spend 90 minutes using computer software simulations on careers before returning to AHS for four periods of academic classes. In the second half of the year, the students alternate between hands-on activities and computer simulations before they get on a bus to go back to AHS, Mrs. Kozloski said.

While some students may need the slower pace of the LPVEC Program, Mrs. Kozloski said Westfield Voke had an entirely different program and attracted an entirely different kind of student.

Mrs. Kozloski said the difference in the programs is tremendous, but the cost difference is just several hundred dollars (when the cost of providing students with educational services at AHS is figured into the total per pupil cost for vocational education).

Mrs. Kozloski said the cost for tuition and transportation for a student at Westfield Voc is \$8,777, and the cost at the LPVEC is \$5,517. Adding in \$3,010 to cover the cost of four periods at AHS brings the total for LPVEC students to \$8,527, according to Mrs. Kozloski.

Town Departments Explore New Ways To Track Permits

Agawam Town Departments are exploring new ways to use their increased computer capabilities to follow the permitting process. The Planning and Inspection Team consisting of the Office of Planning and Community Development, Inspection Services, the Health Department, and the Department of Public Works will soon be tracking the permits issued by each department on the MUNIS Land Management System.

The MUNIS (MUNicipal Information System) software was recently purchased by the Town of Agawam. It provides the Town with a fully automated financial management system. The Land Management component will enable each department to identify at what stage in the development process a particular project may be.

For example, by calling up a property address on the Land Management System, it can be determined whether approvals have been obtained from the Agawam Conservation Commission, whether a Site Plan has been approved by the Agawam Planning Board, or whether a Building Permit has been issued by the Inspector of Buildings.

The Planning and Inspection Team hopes to have the system operational by the Summer of 1996. Team member Nick Urbinati, Agawam Inspector of Buildings, looks forward to the computerization of his Permit Tracking procedures.

Planning Director Deborah Dachos states that this is just one of the efforts being undertaken by the Town to make the permitting process more user friendly.

Please remember that our deadline is every Tuesday at noon. We open at 6:30 a.m. Thanks.

LEGAL NOTICE

In accordance with Article 8, Section 8-1(b) of the Agawam Town Charter, the Agawam Town Council will conduct a public hearing on Monday, April 4, 1996 at 7:30 P.M. at the Agawam Middle School, 68 Main Street, Agawam, MA in regards to a request that the Agawam Town Council place

PUBLIC HEARING TOWN OF AGAWAM

on its agenda and approve a non-binding referendum question to be placed on the ballot at the next regular or special town election.

Ursula Retzler
Clerk of the Council

Published: March 21, 1996

LEGAL NOTICE



The Mortgage Pros

Left to right: Bob Michel,
Glenn McCarthy and Rosemary Morin
Combined Experience: 53 years

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You won't find points added to mortgage plans we write. Just low rates... no points. Over the past year, our mortgage rates have always been among the lowest of 50 banks reported weekly in the *Sunday Republican*. Often we've been *the* lowest. And no points.

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— Obituaries —

William R. Chiba

William R. ("Bill") Chiba, 72, of 1003 North Westfield St., Feeding Hills, a longtime sportsman, wildlife advocate, and conservationist, died in Springfield's Mercy Hospital on Tuesday, March 12th.

He was a 31-year carrier at the Feeding Hills Office of the Postal Service. Born here, and a lifelong resident, he was graduated from Agawam High School in 1941. He was a World War II Navy veteran, and served in 1940-45 at the Newport, R.I. Naval Training Station, and aboard the USS West Point, LST-123, and the USS Appalachian.

He received American defense, American area, European, Asiatic-Pacific, and Philippine liberation theater ribbons with stars, and a Good Conduct Medal.

He was a communicant of the Sacred Heart Church. He belonged to the American Legion post and the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and was a charter member of the Polish-American Club.

He served five terms as president of the Hampden County Council of Sportsmen's Clubs. While president, he established the Land Acquisition Committee, which raised money and purchased two large tracts for hunting and fishing.

He was a life member of Springfield Sportsmen's Club, Inc., and helped found the McLaughlin Fish Hatchery.

He helped to establish the Department of Conservation Education in the state Department of Education. He also helped to create conservation commissions in the state, and served on the Agawam Conservation Commission.

He was founder of the town's Bowmen Club, and was its president and director from 1953 to 1993. He was a prime mover in establishing pre-season and two-and three-week bow-hunting seasons.

He was an advisor on bow-hunting to the state Division of Fisheries and Wildlife. He helped to establish the U.S. Bare Bow Archery Association, and served two terms as president.

He helped to create the Western Massachusetts Bare Bow Archery Association, and served three terms as president. He was a four-term field governor of the National Field Archery Association.

He developed an archery program for impaired children at the Kennedy Foundation, and taught archery to Boy Scouts.

He belonged to the Dante Club Bocce League, the Italian Sporting Club, and the National Rifle Association. He was the first recipient of the Charles Ellsworth Sportsman of the Year Award.

An ardent fisherman, he created the well-known Cardinale fly, and was in Trout Unlimited.

He wrote the "Sportsman's Corner" in *The Agawam Advertiser News* from 1958. He belonged to the Outdoor Writers of America. He was a past treasurer and secretary of the New England Outdoor Writers.

He leaves his wife of 51 years, the former Edythe DeVall; two sons, William R. Jr. of Westfield and Anthony J. of West Springfield; a brother, Raymond Chiba of Feeding Hills; a sister, Elaine James of West Springfield; three grandchildren; two great-grandchildren.

The funeral was in Colonial Funeral Home, with burial in Springfield Street Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Shriners Hospital for Crippled Children, 516 Carew St., Springfield, 01104, or any other charity.

Charles R. Smith

Charles R. Smith, 43, of State Street, Springfield, died in Baystate Medical Center.

He was a mechanic for Grand Prix Motors and Brown's Garage, and a carpet installer for Allied Carpet Co. and J.M. Benson Co. of Connecticut. He also worked for U.S. Envelope Co.

He was born in Holyoke, and lived in Springfield most of his life.

He was a 1973 graduate of Putnam Vocational High School, where he was a star football player.

He was a Marine Corps veteran of the Vietnam War, and a member of the Northampton Honor Court.

He leaves his former wife, the former Susan Scibelli; a son, Russell C. of Agawam; and two brothers, Michael Smith of Springfield, and Edward Archambeault of Chicopee.

The funeral was held at Curran-Jones Funeral Home in West Springfield. The burial will be in the spring at Village Cemetery in West Stockbridge.

Memorial contributions may be made to a fund for the decedent's son, in care of Westbank (attention of Elsie Grady), 225 Park Avenue, West Springfield, MA 01089.

Gerald T. Vogel

Gerald T. Vogel, 60, of 119 North St., Agawam, died at Mercy Hospital in Springfield. He founded and owned Leisure Time Canvas, Inc., and was a former employee of the West Springfield Parks and Recreation Department.

He operated the Nature Lodge at Mittineague Park in West Springfield, and sponsored many recreational activities for children there. He was the founder and president of the Conservation and Wildlife Society.

Born and raised in Springfield, he moved here 23 years ago.

He was a member of Knights of Columbus Council 2212, and a communicant of the Immaculate Conception Church, both in West Springfield.

He was active with the parish's Boy Scout Troop 81.

He also was a communicant of St. Thomas the Apostle Church.

He leaves his wife, the former Phyllis E. Lamb; two sons, Thomas J. of Stafford Springs, Connecticut, and John W. of Huntington; two daughters, Lori A. Wetzel of Nashua, New Hampshire, and Robin E. Vogel of Agawam; two brothers, Edward F. of Westfield and Robert J. of West Springfield; two sisters, Charlotte E. Castoldi of Springfield and Janet F. Morin of East Longmeadow, and five grandchildren.

The funeral was at Agawam Curran-Jones Funeral Home and St. Thomas the Apostle Church, with burial in Center Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Jude's Children's Hospital, 505 North Parkway, P.O. Box 3704, Memphis, Tennessee 38103, or the Dominican Nuns, 1430 Riverdale St., West Springfield, MA 01089.

Richard J. Rieker

Richard J. Rieker, 88, of 1158 Main St., Agawam, died in Mercy Hospital in Springfield. He was an accountant for Ley Construction Co. of Springfield prior to retiring.

He previously was employed by United Fruit Co., General Electric in Lowell, and the former American Bosch Company in Springfield. He was born in Beverly. He graduated from St. John's Prep School and was a 1927 graduate of Bentley College in Boston. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus.

A communicant of St. John the Evangelist Church and one of the founders of St. John's Catholic Men's Club and Nocturnal Adoration Society. He was a registrar of voters for more than 30 years.

He leaves his wife of 58 years, the former Harriet R. Thomas; a son, Paul J. of Southwick; two daughters, Martha L. Lussier of Ludlow and Jeanne E. Flanders of Bremerton, West Virginia; eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

The funeral was at Colonial Funeral Home and in the church, with burial in Agawam Center Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to Catholic Steward Appeal, Diocese of the Springfield Chancery, 65 Elliot St., Springfield.

Audrey M. Menard

Audrey M. (Dodge) Menard, 56, of 300 North St., Agawam, a former West Springfield colleen, died in a local nursing home.

She was a dental assistant to Dr. Thomas C. Morrier of Main Street. She served on the parents' committee of the Wales Elementary School and the Tantasqua Regional High School in Sturbridge.

She was the first colleen to represent West Springfield in Holyoke's St. Patrick's Day Parade.

After a long absence, West Side reinstated its colleen contest in 1983.

Born in Springfield, she spent most of her life in West Springfield before moving here five years ago.

She leaves her husband, Raymond E. Menard; two sons, John of Ft. Myers, Florida, and James of Agawam; a daughter, Christina Menard; her mother, Rita M. Dodge; a sister, Margaret Welch, all of West Springfield; and a grandchild.

The funeral was at Curran-Jones Funeral Home and the Immaculate Conception Church, with burial in St. Thomas Cemetery, all in West Springfield.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Tufts New England Medical Center Experimental Program for ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease), Harrison Avenue, Boston, 02112.

Vera M. Henderson

Vera M. (Curry) Henderson, 81, of 77 Cass Ave., West Springfield, died recently at Mercy Hospital in Springfield. She was a bookkeeper at Casey Chevrolet in Chicopee for 21 years, and retired in 1979.

Born in Bedford, New Hampshire, she moved to West Springfield in 1953. She was a deaconess of

SEE OBITUARIES - Page 14...

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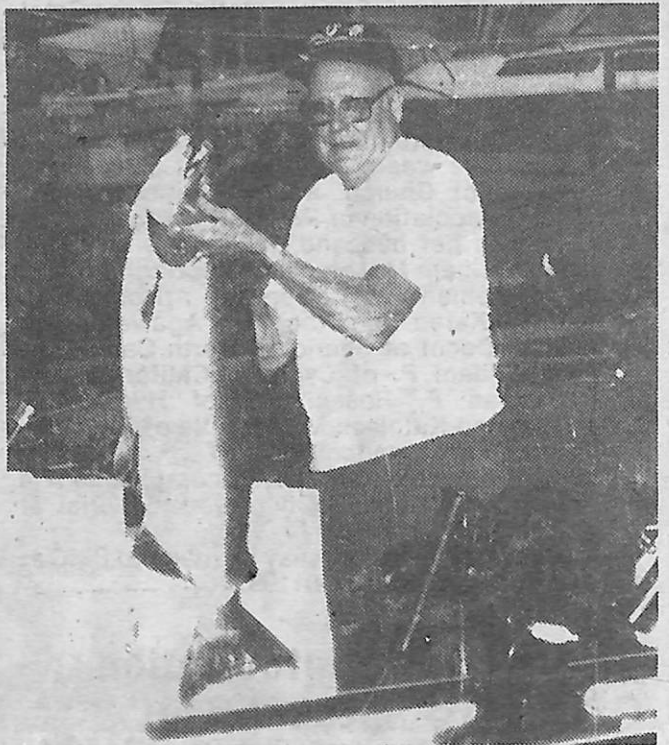
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In Memory Of Bill Chiba...



Lord, Please Tell Bill...

Dear Lord, since you have chosen to extend your hand down to take our beloved husband, father, grandfather, and friend, bringing him to your lush and abundant fields, woods, and streams, we ask you to convey these wishes to him.

We wish you to tell him of our sadness and pain we feel for the loss of him to us. Tell him how we shall miss his love, guidance, and friendship. Tell him of the happiness we feel because our lives were touched by his.

He made things easier just by being here. He was our strength.

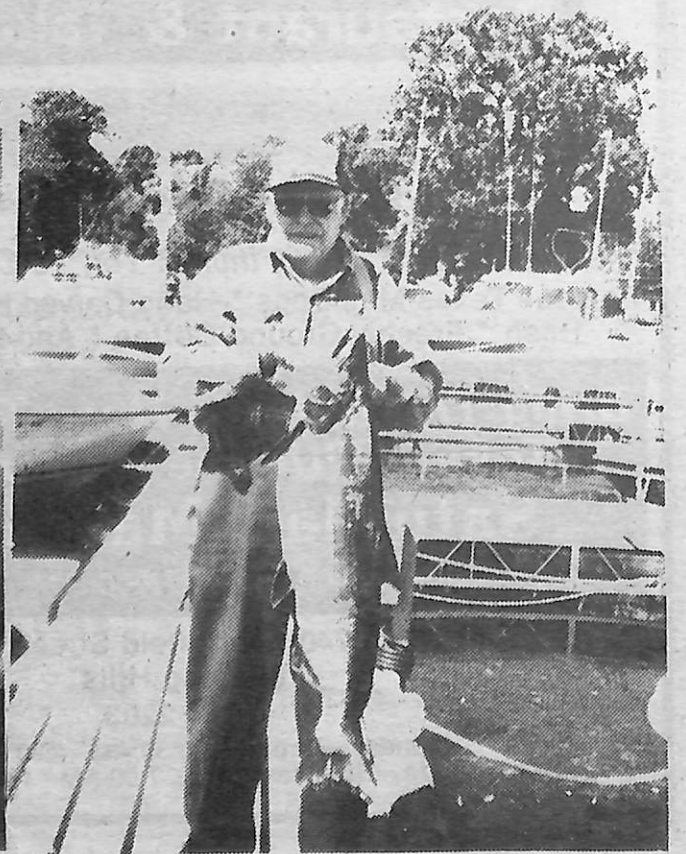
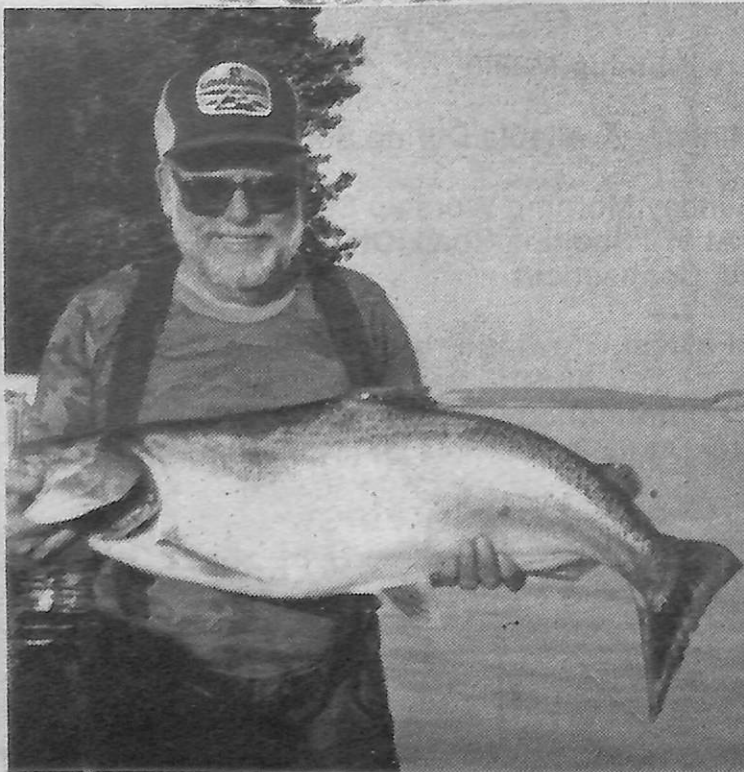
We wish that you tell him of our joy that his physical bonds have been broken and that once again he can be our BILL.

We ask these things because we know he is very close to you because he believed in your natural beauty. He always said he worked so hard to preserve nature so that everybody could know and enjoy it forever.

We wish to let him know that he will live on forever with us because of our memories. Tell him that his place on earth will be remembered because of stories of his adventures which will be told for generations to come.

We love and miss you, Bill—our beloved husband, our father, our grandfather, and our friend. AMEN.

*Anthony Chiba
(Bill's youngest son)*



OBITUARIES - from Page 12...

the First Congregational Church. She belonged to Aoket Rebekah Lodge 189, Pomona Grange 32, and West Side Grange 147.

She sang with the town's Blue Ribbon Singers. Her husband, Charles F. Henderson, died in 1988. She leaves two sons, David of Englewood, Colorado, and Richard of Feeding Hills; a daughter, Lillian Bryant of Feeding Hills; three stepsons, John Moyer of Westfield, Francis Moyer of Chicopee; and Gerald Henderson of Hobe, Florida; five stepdaughters, M. Helen Fife and Lois McCarl of West Springfield, Leona Bandofski of Springfield, and Harriet Willette and Barbara Avondo of Agawam; eight grandchildren, and 14 great-grandchildren.

The funeral was at West Springfield Curran-Jones Funeral Home with a spring burial in Paucatuck Cemetery.

Mary E. Lemoine

Mary E. (Genaitis) Lemoine, 64, of 38 Royal St., Agawam, a 15-year employee of H.P. Hood Co., died at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield.

She retired in 1993. She had worked at the Great Atlantic & Pacific Tea Co. Bakery on Plainfield Street, Springfield, for 15 years. Born in Winchendon, she was a 1949 graduate of East Hartford High School.

She lived in Springfield before moving here 18 years ago. She was a communicant of St. John the Evangelist Church, and a member of the American Association of Retired Persons.

She leaves her husband, William F. Lemoine; two sons, William M. Lemoine of Springfield, and Gary A. Leblanc of Phoenix, Arizona; two daughters, Karen A. Drane of Agawam, and Deborah J. Decot of Charlotte, North Carolina; a brother, William P. of Cypress, California; two sisters, Jean F. Rosenbaum of Huntington, California; and Kathleen M. Genaitis of Roanoke, Virginia, and six grandchildren.

The funeral was at Colonial Funeral Home and St. John the Evangelist Church, with burial at Gate of Heaven Cemetery in Springfield.

Memorial contributions may be made to BMC at 140 High St., Springfield, 01199.

Public Health Information Officer To Speak About Rabies At Public Library

As part of "Rabies Awareness Month" in Massachusetts, Public Health Information Officer Ann C. Miller will give a speech on rabies education on Tuesday, April 16th, from 7:00 to 7:30 p.m. in the Agawam Public Library's community room.

Anyone wishing to attend can sign-up at the library (750 Cooper Street, Agawam) or call (413) 789-1550.

Space is limited to 150 people.

FireWise ... by Fire Chief David Pisano

Fire Safety For Seniors

If you are age 65 or older, you are your own best insurance against fire and burn injuries.

Fire safety isn't just for children. Because, like children, older Americans are at a greater risk of being injured or killed from fires or burn injuries than other adults.

The Agawam Fire Department encourages you to take some time to look for and correct fire hazards around your home.

Make sure you have at least one working smoke detector on each level of your home. They should be tested once a month, and the battery should be changed annually.

Have an escape plan. Know two ways out of every room, in case fire or smoke block one way out. Remember, during a fire the breathable air is close to the floor, so crawl low under smoke. Once you get out, stay out and call the fire department from a neighbor's. Keep your glasses and a flashlight by your bed.

If you smoke or have smokers in your home, extra precautions should be taken. Each year careless smoking is a major cause of fires. A lit cigarette that falls onto a bed or sofa can smolder for hours.

You should never smoke in bed or when lying down. Make sure large, deep ashtrays are used

and that all smoking materials have been extinguished completely. Dispose of butts in a metal container or douse with water before emptying into a trash can.

The kitchen is another area that can be very dangerous if certain precautions are not followed. Make sure your stove is clean and free of grease build-up. Keep flammables, such as towels and pot holders, away from the stove and oven.

Turn pot handles away from the front of the stove so they won't be knocked off or pulled down. If you're called away from the kitchen during food preparation, turn all burners off. If you have a stove fire, put a lid on it, turn off the heat, and let it cool.

Many fires are caused by home heating. You should have your heating system checked annually by a qualified professional. If you use portable electric or kerosene heaters, make sure they have at least three feet of clearance around them while in operation and always follow the manufacturer's instructions for their use.

Make sure you've insured your safety at home by knowing what to do in case of a fire. Contact the Agawam Fire Department at 786-2662 if you have any questions or need more information.

Senator Melconian Says Proposed Bill Will Give Advantage To State Contractors

Assistant Majority Leader Linda J. Melconian (D-Springfield) has announced that the Massachusetts Senate has given its approval to a bill which would provide state contractors with a competitive advantage over out-of-state competitors for public construct contracts.

The legislation, sponsored by Robert A. Antonioni (D-Leominster), would consider state bidders the lowest responsible and eligible bidder if their bid is no greater than two and one-half percent of the lowest bid of an out-of-state bidder.

"In this tight economy, it is essential to promote the working men and women of our state, and this legislation will enable more state con-

tracts to remain within the Commonwealth," Melconian said.

Contractors in Hampden County will benefit under the proposed legislation. Since much of the county borders Connecticut, passage of the bill will provide a nice boost to area bidders.

"Hampden County should get preference on public construct contracts over Connecticut contractors as long as the bid is competitive and meets all of the eligibility requirements," Melconian said.

The legislation, having already passed the Senate, is currently pending action by the House of Representatives.

Miss Agawam Beauty Pageant Slated For Monday, April 1st At Chez Josef

The 9th Annual Miss Agawam Beauty Pageant & Talent Competition, slated for April 1st, at Chez Josef on Shoemaker Lane, is seeking participants in all age categories.

The event is under the director of Lori Andruss

Boyle of Feeding Hills, owner and operator of Hollywood Productions.

For information and entry form, please call 732-3411.

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Bring The Kids To Have Their Photo Taken With The Easter Bunny Saturday, March 30th

8:00 A.M. To 2:00 P.M.

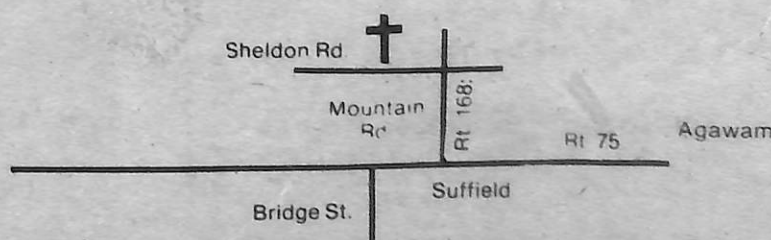
740 Springfield Street
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Open: Monday—Saturday, 6:30 AM - 2:00 PM
Sunday (Breakfast Only), 7:00 AM - 1:00 PM



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LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF AGAWAM
APPROVED ORDINANCE
TOR-95-10

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE
TOWN OF AGAWAM, CHAPTER 155, ARTICLE I,
SECTION 155-15 AND CHAPTER 180, ARTICLE I
SECTION 180-2

(sponsored by Councilor Bitzas/Agawam
Beautification Committee)

WHEREAS, the Town of Agawam, under
authority granted by Massachusetts General
Laws Chapter 83, enacted the Streets and
Sidewalks Ordinance for the purpose of pro-
moting health, safety, convenience, and welfare
of its inhabitants; and

WHEREAS, Councilor George Bitzas, in the
best interest of the town, requests that the
Agawam Town Council amend said section in the
Agawam Streets and Sidewalks Ordinance;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED AND
ENACTED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF AGAWAM
AS FOLLOWS:

Amend Section 155-15 of Article I of the
Agawam Streets and Sidewalks Ordinance, entit-
led "Damaging sidewalks prohibited; penalty" by
adding the words "and tree belt" after the existing
word "sidewalks" in the title.

Amend Section 155-15 of Article I of the
Agawam Streets and Sidewalks Ordinance, entit-
led "Damaging sidewalks prohibited; penalty" by
lettering the existing paragraph "A."

Amend Section 155-15 of Article I of the
Agawam Streets and Sidewalks Ordinance entit-
led "Damaging sidewalks prohibited; penalty;
"This section shall not apply to property which is
zoned Agricultural and which is actively being
utilized for agricultural and/or horticultural use."

"B. The tenant or occupant of any real estate in
the Town which abuts on any public or private way
in the Town and, in case there is no tenant or oc-
cupant, the owner of such real estate shall keep
that portion of the public or private way common-
ly known as the sidewalk and the "tree belt,"
mowed and free and clear of all litter, debris, nox-
ious weeds, brush, any other kind of rubbish and
automobiles and shall maintain the same in a
clean and sanitary manner and also to have
uninterrupted clear vision at all intersections."

DATED THIS 11th DAY OF March, 1996.

PER ORDER OF THE AGAWAM TOWN COUNCIL

Nancy E. Thompson, President

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY

Thomas S. Locke, Solicitor

Published: March 21, 1996

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Vacation**

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Sunday, 3 PM - 8 PM

Business Hours:
Mon. - Fri., 9 AM - 10 PM
Saturday, 11 AM - 10 PM
Sunday, 3 PM - 8 PM

Agawam Library Has "Women's History Month" Display

March is "Women's History Month," and to
celebrate this event there is a special display of
women's history items at the Agawam Library.

This year is the 76th anniversary of the passage
of the 19th amendment, giving women the right to
vote. Congress has designated March as
"Women's History Month" so we can all reflect on
the contributions women have made and are mak-
ing to the growth and strength of our nation.

Also, that women have been leaders, not only in
securing their own right of suffrage and equal op-
portunity, but also in the abolitionist movement,
the civil rights movement, and other movements
(especially the peace movement), which create a
more fair and just society for all.

This display is sponsored by the Greater Spr-
ingfield Chapter of the National Organization for
Women.

Second "Bone Marrow Drive" Slated For Sunday, March 24th

On Sunday, March 24, 1996, there will be a se-
cond BONE MARROW DRIVE for KATELYNN BAT-
TISTA.

Katelynn is a fourth grade student at St.
Thomas School in West Springfield who suffers
from a very aggressive form of Leukemia and is in
desperate need of a bone marrow transplant.

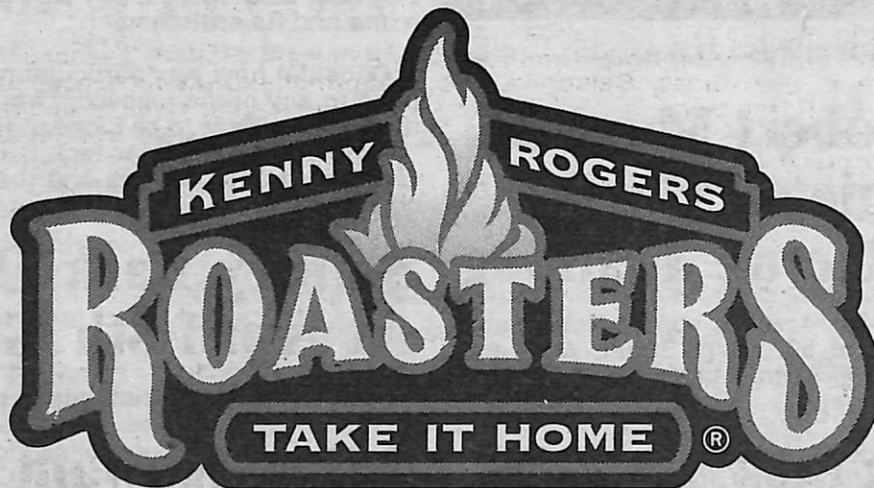
If you are in good health and between the ages
of 18-60, we ask that you consider giving a blood
sample to help Katelynn find a donor.

The drive will be from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at
ST. THOMAS SCHOOL, WEST SPRINGFIELD on
Sunday, MARCH 24, 1996.

If you have any apprehensions about becoming
a bone marrow donor, we encourage you to call 1-
800-336-3363 to have your questions answered.

Kenny Rogers Roasters

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(413) 746-2190 fax orders



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Honey Bourbon Baby Back Ribs!

Mouthwatering slow roasted ribs brushed with
our special Honey Bourbon Sauce!

25%

Discount to our Senior Citizen guests!

Discount is offered Monday-Thursdays 2-5 pm.
Come join us for Hot, Wholesome meals today!
Sorry, offer not valid with any other discount.

FREE

1/4 Chicken dinner on your birthday!

Please ask the manager for details, and do not forget to bring
proof of age along with you.

One Whole Chicken

FREE

With the purchase of any Family Meal Deal

Offer not valid with any other discount. Limit 1 coupon per person per visit.
Offer expires 4/30/96

Two 1/2 Chicken platters for only

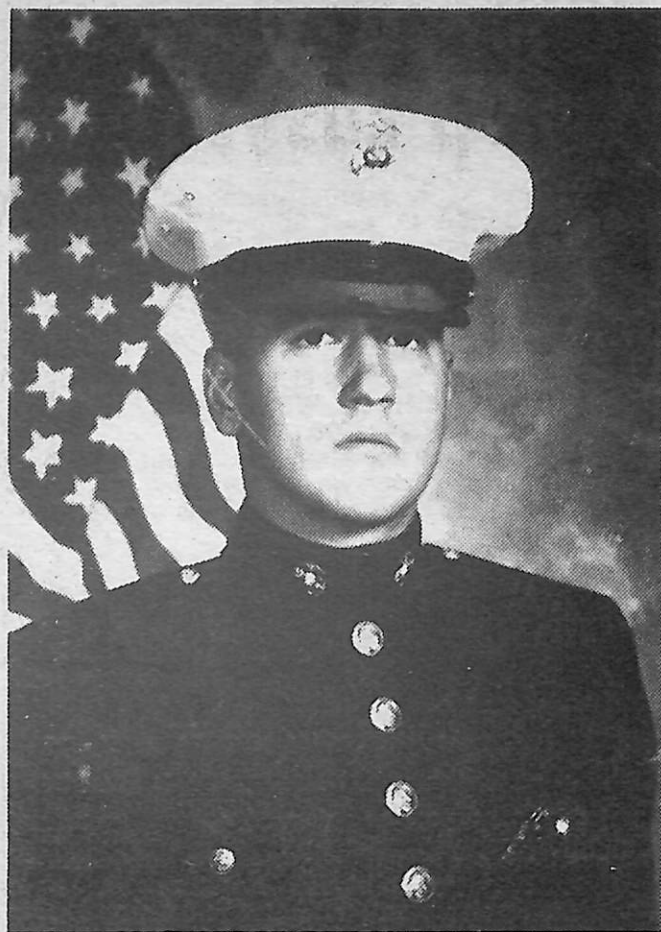
\$9.99

Each platter includes your choice of 2 side items & a muffin
(extra charge for all white meat)

Offer not valid with any other discount. Limit 1 coupon per person per visit.
Offer expires 4/30/96



Families



ROBERT MAZEIKA

Pvt. Robert Mazeika Completes Marine Corps Recruit Training

Private Robert C. Mazeika, son of Robert and Dorothy Mazeika of 597 Barry Street, Agawam, recently completed recruit training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, South Carolina.

A 1993 graduate of Agawam High School, he enlisted in the Marine Corps during October 1995.

Currently on leave, Pvt. Mazeika is assisting his recruiter, Sgt. Kenneth D. Jones, whose office is located in Springfield, MA, at 1550 Main Street (Room 112).

On March 26, 1996, Pvt. Mazeika will depart for Camp LeJeune, North Carolina, for further training in the Infantry Occupational Specialty.

Check our classified

Electronics Revolution Featured At 1996 HOME SHOW At The BIG E

This March, it's time to join the Revolution—the Electronic Revolution—at **HOME SHOW '96**. As the Millennium approaches, rapid advances in computer and communication technology are changing every aspect of the home and the American lifestyle.

This year, the participants and staff of the "Original" **Western Massachusetts Home Show** will help make these advances more manageable for the consumer, through innovative exhibits like the **Idea Center at Home Show '96** and **HOMEXPO 2000SM**.

Scheduled for Tuesday, March 19th, through Sunday, March 24th, at the Eastern States Exposition, West Springfield, MA, the nationally-acclaimed **HOME SHOW '96** is the largest show of its kind in New England with nearly 100,000 visitors from Western and Central Massachusetts, Northern Connecticut and throughout New England making at least one trip to the "Original" **Western Massachusetts Home Show** to see the best and the latest in products and services for the home.

With nearly 300,000 square feet of exhibits in two buildings and Home Town, USA (our outdoor exhibit area), **HOME SHOW '96** has become the recognized forum for spotting the economic and social trends of Western Massachusetts, New England, and the country as they relate to the home and its environment.

Consider how your particular market would respond to any of the following, which are just a few of the story ideas to be found at **HOME SHOW '96**:

- How has computer technology affected the variety of home designs and the quality of their construction?

Stanley Park Official To Be Speaker At April 8th Garden Club Meeting

Mark LaVoie, superintendent of Stanley Park, Westfield, will be the guest speaker for the Agawam Garden Club following the April 8th meeting at 7:30 p.m. at the Captain Charles Leonard House on Main Street.

LaVoie has moved up through several positions at the park and his present responsibility involves overseeing horticultural and civic activities within

- What are the practical implications of telecommuting for our region?

- Will new communications technologies change the way Americans view and use their homes?

- What are the prospects for "Green/Energy-Efficient" housing? How does a home become "Enviro-Friendly"?

Our more than 400 exhibitors represent a broad spectrum of businesses nationwide—from "cottage industry" to multi-national corporation—and themselves provide a variety of story focuses:

- What is the consumer's mood as we approach the heart of the Presidential Primary Season?

- Has the "Republican Revolution" of the '94 elections made a difference in the region's economy?

- What economic trends are affecting housing and home spending locally and nationwide?

- What is the real building climate in Western Massachusetts?

The schedule for the remainder of **HOME SHOW '96** goes as follows:

Friday, March 22nd, 1:00 to 10:00 p.m.; Saturday, March 23rd, 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.; and Sunday, March 24th, 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

General admission is \$6 per person, and children under 12 years of age are free. For reduced admission, "\$1 Off Discount Coupons" are available in all newspaper advertising and are being distributed by area vendors throughout Massachusetts and Connecticut (limited to one ticket per coupon).

For further information about **HOME SHOW '96**, call the Home Show Media Office at the Eastern States Exposition's Young Building, (413) 787-0132 or (413) 787-0131.

best
local
news

Did You Know That Jesus' Last Supper Was A Passover Seder?

On Palm Sunday, March 31st, come and see how Jesus Christ used the elements of the Passover Seder to explain his death, burial, and resurrection.

- Rabbi Paul Saal, of Congregation Shuvah Yisrael, will conduct this special service.
- Congregation Shuvah Yisrael, located in West Hartford, is a member of the Union of Messianic Jewish Congregations.

- 10:00 A.M. Sunday Morning Worship Service at the VFW Hall, located at 972 Sheldon Road (off Mountain Road - Rt. 168) in Suffield, Connecticut.

- Children's Ministry available during service.
- For further information, please call Reverend Peter Monahan at (860) 668-4444 or (413) 786-8735.



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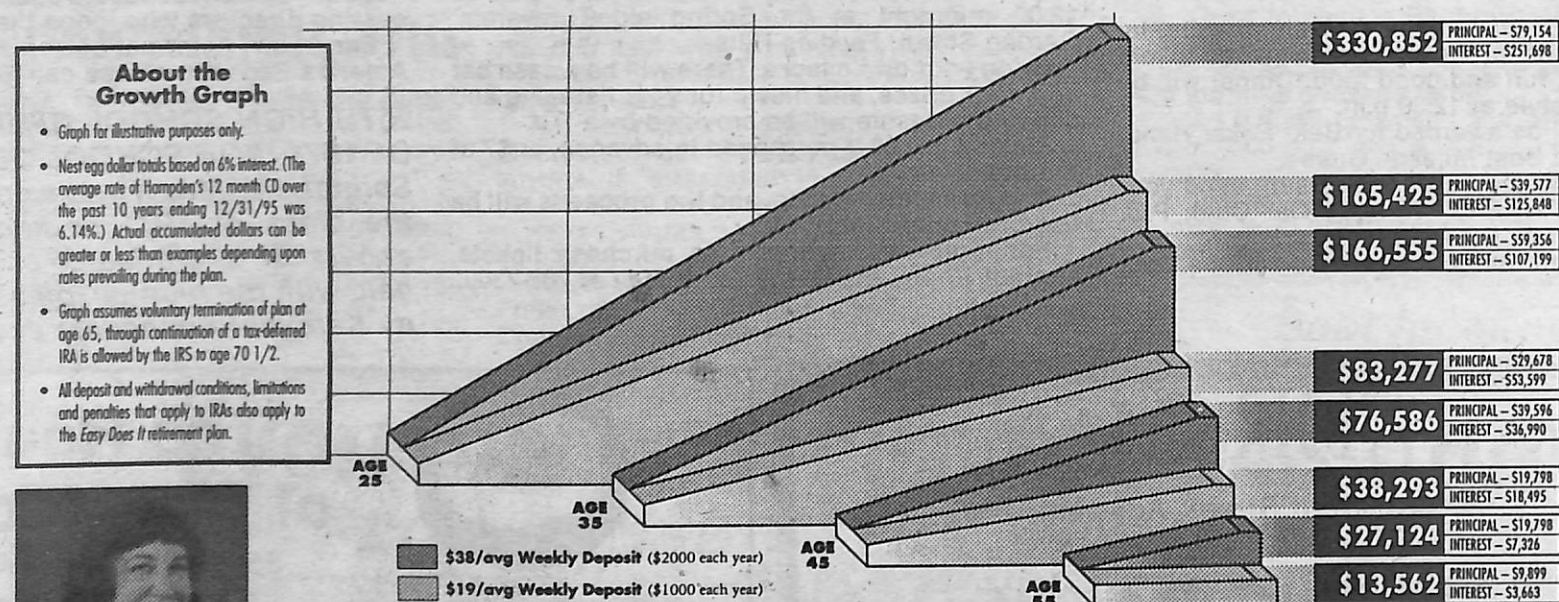
Our IRA Specialist will monitor your account monthly and, when a higher interest CD or Hampden savings account is available, will phone you. If you wish to roll over your accumulated funds into the higher yield account, the transfer will be made at no cost to

you, with no penalty and will continue to be IRA tax-deferred.

Your deposits can never lose value. All *Easy Does It* contributions become principal and, with the help of daily compounding, are guaranteed to grow over time. This is unlike so many IRA investment vehicles such as stocks and mutual funds which can decline in value, sometimes severely. Moreover, your *Easy Does It* retirement fund, regardless of the amount, is fully insured by DIF.

An automatic deposit plan can be arranged. If you'd like to establish a retirement deposit discipline, we'll arrange a payroll deduction program. Or we can arrange automatic transfers from another of your Hampden savings or checking accounts.

Daily compounded interest is a key factor to growth. Daily compounding exceeds simple interest or monthly compounding for increasing interest yield. In time, accumulated interest can far exceed principal. See the graph for examples.



Questions? Our IRA Specialist Cynthia Bartels has answers. She can send you a pamphlet on our *Easy Does It* program. Phone 736-1812.

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SAMANTHA JO POLVERARI

Polverari Family Announces Birth Of Daughter, Samantha Jo

Robert and Mary Polverari are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Samantha Jo Polverari.

Samantha was born on February 23, 1996 at 12:46 p.m. She weighed eight pounds, 15 ounces, and measured 20½ inches long.

Robert is the owner of Sand Trap in Agawam, and Mary is the owner of Hollywood Video in Agawam.

"CRANKERS" To Hold Fifth Annual Spring Poker Run

On Sunday, April 14th, the "CRANKERS" Antique Car Club of Agawam will hold its Fifth Annual Spring Poker Run.

The Poker Run will start at EB's Restaurant, 385 Walnut Street Extension, Agawam, with registration from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. We will travel through surrounding towns and back to EB's Restaurant for an "All You Can Eat Chicken and Spaghetti Dinner."

Everyone with an Antique, Classic, Special Interest, Street Rod, or Vintage Car is invited to join us for a day of fun and good food. Dinner will be served family style at 12:30 p.m.

Trophies will be awarded for Best Poker Hand, Best Time, and Best Mileage Guess.

Dinner tickets are \$8.50 per person; send your check to "CRANKERS" Antique Car Club, P.O. Box 172, Agawam, MA 01001.

For more information and reservations, call (413) 786-0014.

Airman Sandstrom Returns From Tour Near Bosnia & Gulf

Navy Airman Thomas J. Sandstrom, son of Mr. and Mrs. Otto J. Sandstrom of Feeding Hills, has returned to Norfolk, VA, after completing a six-month overseas deployment to the Adriatic Sea near Bosnia and to the Persia Gulf near Iraq aboard the aircraft carrier USS America.

Sandstrom is one of more than 5,000 Sailors and Marines aboard the carrier who completed the 51,000-mile voyage.

Sandstrom first traveled to the Adriatic Sea near Bosnia, where the 1,047-foot-long aircraft carrier and its nine aircraft squadrons participated in three days of NATO air strikes against Bosnian-Serb military targets in support of U.N. initiatives in Bosnia.

Aircraft from Sandstrom's ship flew more than 250 missions in the three-day period in which they delivered missiles and laser-guided bombs on targets. The air strikes targeted military storage and ammunition depots, anti-aircraft missile defense systems, command and control facilities, and military communications systems.

Sandstrom and fellow shipmates also traveled into the Persian Gulf to help enforce the international no-fly zone over southern Iraq. While in the Persian Gulf, Sandstrom's unit was ordered to return to the Adriatic Sea near Bosnia. Traveling more than 4,200 miles in just nine days, Sandstrom and shipmates were back in the Adriatic before the peace implementation forces began to pour into Bosnia from around the world.

During the six-month deployment, aircraft from Sandstrom's ship flew more than 12,000 missions and completed 11,500 arrested landings aboard the carrier.

Sandstrom and fellow Sailors and Marines also participated in several multinational exercises with forces from Egypt, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, and the United Kingdom.

While spending 151 days at sea, Sandstrom also visited Greece, Italy, and Malta and had an opportunity to visit local sites.

Sandstrom's involvement in the deployment is an example of how U.S. men and women are serving in the Navy and Marine Corps around the world in support of U.S. interests. These highly trained naval forces provide a unique forward presence and crisis-response option, which can be withdrawn quickly when no longer needed.

Sandstrom, a 1990 graduate of Agawam High School, joined the Navy in March 1991.

Annual Record Hop Slated For March 23rd At Spfld. Turnverein

Cub Pack 75 will be holding its "Annual Record Hop" on Saturday, March 23rd, from 8:00 p.m. to 12:00 midnight at the Springfield Turnverein, Garden Street, Feeding Hills.

Bring your own snacks. There will be a cash bar and door prizes, and music for your listening and dancing pleasure will be provided by a D.J.

Tickets are \$6 if purchased in advance, or \$7 at the door.

This is an adult dance, and the proceeds will be used to benefit the Pack.

For more information or to purchase tickets, contact Cheryl at 789-1655 or Nancy at 786-2309.



DEONNA STRAIN

Deonna Strain Is Chosen As Miss Junior North Agawam Petite

Deonna Strain, four year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Strain, recently won the title of Miss Junior North Agawam and will be competing for the title of Miss Junior Massachusetts on June 28th.

The winner of the state title will travel to New York in July to compete for the National Title of Miss Junior America.

Deonna attends Perry Lane Nursery School, and she is also a very energetic and outgoing child. Sponsoring Deonna are Rebecca Booher, George Anderson, Gerard Pinard, Rita Desai, and City Councilor Joseph Langone, all of Agawam.

The Miss Junior America Pageant has been in existence for 13 years and offers its contestants an experience of a lifetime with opportunities unlike any other pageant today.

Many previous pageant winners, like Tiffany Thiessen on "Beverly Hills 90210" (among others), have been discovered in the Miss Junior America Pageant by well-respected agents, managers, and casting directors who judge the competitions.

For more information on the Miss Junior America Pageant, please call (617) 584-0741.

25TH HIGH SCHOOL REUNION—CLASS OF 1971 HIGH SCHOOL OF COMMERCE, Springfield, MA. If you were a member of the class of 1971 or know the whereabouts of a graduate, or would like to help with the reunion, please contact Cindy Kardynal Rosendale at 569-5434.

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ART INSTRUCTOR Florida Tangocci and artists at the Agawam Senior Center, including Shirley Luciz and Virginia Bauer, were part of an art exhibit at the Center recently. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Senior Artists Display Talents At Senior Ctr.

Senior artists "showed off" their art at the Senior Center from March 13th through March 15th. These artists are members of the Open Art Studio classes which are held weekly at the Center, with Florida Tangocci in charge.

The exhibit consisted of watercolors and oils and were displayed at the Center. Included were special watercolors done by the students displayed on panels copied from the Masters—"Borrowing from the Masters." Florida was especially pleased and proud of all the time and effort of the matted and framed artwork displayed.

A special thank you is extended to John Muncey for his help in hanging the exhibit, and to Sandra Smith for her help and support.

Yes, our senior artists are happy to show off their art, but especially to share it all with the townfolk!

German Dinner At Turnverein March 29th

The Springfield Turnverein, 176 Garden Street, Feeding Hills, is sponsoring a Kassler Rippchen Dinner (smoked pork chops) on Friday, March 29th.

Dinner will be served from 6:00-7:00 p.m. Reservations may be made with Christa Strehl by March 27th at 786-0143 or at the Club at 786-0924. A program for your listening and dancing pleasure will be presented by the fabulous "Vagabonds."

Guests are cordially invited to join us for an entertaining evening.

Ag. Women Plan Meeting For March 25

The March meeting of The Agawam Women's Club will be held on Monday, March 25th at 7:30 p.m. at the Captain Charles Leonard House, Main Street, Agawam.

The nominating committee will present the slate of officers for the 1996-1997 season.

The program for the evening will be a member of the Agawam Police Department Bike Patrol.

Hostess for the evening will be Gail Russo and her committee.



RETIRED TOWN HALL EMPLOYEE Victoria Donovan (center) was recently feted by her colleagues for her many years of dedicated service in the Treasurer-Collector's Office. From left - AnnMarie Hartmann, Georgiann Thompson, Paula Burke, Victoria Donovan, Laurel Placzek, and Rosemarie Remillard.

Vickie Donovan Retires After Many Years At Town Hall

Victoria "Vickie" Donovan, a long-time employee of the Town of Agawam, retired from the Town Treasurer-Collector's Office on December 31, 1995.

Mrs. Donovan worked for many years as a Principle Clerk in the Collector's Office, where she collected and processed tax payments and water and sewer bills. For the last two years, Vickie worked as a Principle Clerk in the Treasurer's Of-

fice, processing Payroll and Police Outside Duty Detail.

She was honored at a retirement party sponsored by her friends and co-workers on December 28, 1995 at the Ivanhoe Restaurant in West Springfield, where Town Treasurer-Collector Laurel Placzek presented her with a citation from Mayor Christopher C. Johnson honoring her years of service to the Town.

Agawam/Feeding Hills AARP To Hold Next Mtg. On March 25th

The Agawam/Feeding Hills Chapter No. 4915 of AARP will hold its next monthly meeting on Monday, March 25th, at 1:00 p.m. at the Agawam Senior Center.

A representative of "Secured Horizons - Tufts Health Plan For Senior Citizens" will discuss supplement coverage to social security. A wide range of medical benefits not covered by Social Security are included in this program.

Any person over 50 years of age (member or non-member) with a national AARP membership is invited to attend. Members are encouraged to bring a guest.

The Nominating Committee is seeking candidates for our election to be held in May. If anyone is interested in becoming an officer, please come and place your name on the ballot.

Refreshments will be served after the meeting, so please join us.

If you have any questions, please call Jessie Fuller, President of the Agawam/Feeding Hills Chapter, at 789-0657.

"Goodbye Winter" Slated For March 30th At Ag. Congregational

Come help us say goodbye to "Old Man Winter" at the third annual Spring Festival on Saturday, March 30th from 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. at the Congregational Church, 745 Main St., Agawam.

We have homemade goodies at the Nutmeg Bake Shop, flowers and more at the Garden Gate. A great collection of handmade craft items, lollipops for the young and old, and fudge of every kind will be featured.

Our Clothesline Boutique with things for your wardrobe will be in the Friendship Room. Attic Treasures promises collectibles for all. We'll have a surprise package raffle.

A Daffodil Luncheon will be served from 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. and will give you time to rest and relax.

We will again have outside vendors on the lower level offering lawn ornaments, bird houses, wood carvings, and children's apparel.

Come browse. Everyone is welcome!

Best local news...

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Ag. Senior Center's Weekly Lunch Menu

Monday, March 25th: Baked chicken breast, sweet potatoes, peas, oatmeal bread, tangerine.

Tuesday, March 26th: Beef barley soup, ham sandwich, broccoli salad, brownie.

Wednesday, March 27th: Stuffed pepper, mashed potatoes, corn, whole wheat bread, canned peaches.

Thursday, March 28th: Beef stew (beef chunks, onions, potatoes, carrots, celery), tossed salad, pumpernickel bread, baked custard.

Friday, March 29th: Baked fish, rice Florentine, cabbage & carrots, rye bread, canned pears.

(Menu subject to change without notice.)

Cut-A-Thon Set By Operation Friendship

Operation Friendship will be hosting a Cut-A-Thon sponsored by DiGrigoli Salons. This will be the third Cut-A-Thon with DiGrigoli Salons, the official stylists for WWLP-TV22.

The Cut-A-Thon will take place at Feeding Hills Congregational Church, 21 North Westfield Street, Feeding Hills on Sunday, March 24th from 11:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

All haircuts will be only \$10. Call 789-0032 for an appointment. Walk-ins are welcome.

Check our classified

"Babysitting For Beginners" Program At Agawam Library

The Agawam Public Library will offer a "Babysitting For Beginners" series on the following Wednesdays—April 3rd, 10th, and 24th—from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. in the library Community Room for children aged 10 and up.

Health and safety issues will be covered by Registered Nurse Hilda Bartnik, Police Safety Officer Steven Draghetti, and Fire Department Drill Inspector Michael Mercadante.

Library staff members Eileen Chapman and Jeanne Hofmann will offer a variety of suggestions for age-appropriate activities for infants and young children.

Registration is limited to Agawam and Feeding Hills residents who have not previously participated. Sign up at the library today or call 789-1550.

German Being Taught At Turnverein

Recently, the Springfield Turnverein, 176 Garden Street, Feeding Hills completed a 10-week course in the German language under the capable leadership of Dr. Arnold Matz.

Because the class has dwindled in size, people interested in improving their knowledge of the language are being sought. At the present time, people with some understanding are needed so we do not have to get back to the basics.

If you are interested in brushing up on the German language, please call the Club at 786-0924 and leave your name. Someone will get back to you with more information.

Comet Observation At Southwick School

The STARS Club will conduct a Comet Observing session on Friday, March 22nd, from 7:30 until 9:30 p.m., behind the Powder Mill School, Rt. 57 and Powder Mill Road, in Southwick. The "cloud date" will be Saturday, March 23rd.

This session will be free and open to the public.



JOELLE CARNEVALE & MICHAEL BOTTASSO

Michael Bottasso To Wed Joelle Carnevale

George and Alice Bottasso of 21 Princeton Avenue, Feeding Hills, are pleased to announce the engagement of their son, Michael Bottasso, to Joelle Carnevale, daughter of Gerald and Janet Carnevale of Chelmsford, Massachusetts.

The future bride holds a Bachelor of Arts in Education from UMass-Amherst and a Master of Education from UMass-Lowell. She is a first grade reading teacher at the Wellington Elementary School in Belmont, Massachusetts.

The prospective bridegroom is a 1989 graduate of Agawam High School and holds a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from UMass-Amherst. He is an engineer at Raytheon Company in Sudbury, Massachusetts, and is currently pursuing his Master's degree in Mechanical Engineering at Northeastern University.

The wedding is planned for July 20, 1996 at St. Mary's Church in Chelmsford, Massachusetts.

Dr. Michael Haynes Podiatrist

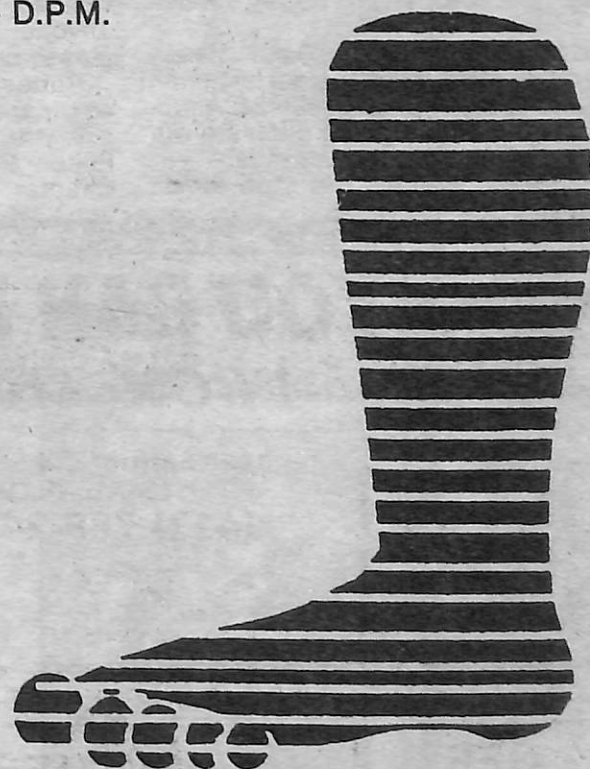
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Church News

News & Notes From F.H. Congregational

You are welcome to join with us at the Feeding Hills Congregational Church, which is located at 21 N. Westfield Street in Feeding Hills.

Sunday School for children and adults begins at 9:00 a.m. Children are then welcome to attend the worship service with their parents at 10:00 a.m.

Rev. Donaldson will preach a sermon entitled "Resurrection 1996." Nursery care will be provided.

The Ladies Benevolent Society will be collecting items for health kits which will be given to Church World Service. The following items are needed: hand towels, washcloths, soap (bath size bars), toothbrushes, tubes of toothpaste, combs, nail files, and Band-Aids.

Please bring these items to the church at your convenience. You may call 786-5061 for more information.

It's that time of year when your garden needs attention. If, while you are pulling weeds and rearranging bulbs, you happen to find some plants or bulbs you can spare, please bring them to the church.

The Christian Education Committee would like to start a flower garden. The flowers will not only make the church a prettier place, but will be used to decorate the altar and bring cheer to shut-ins.

The Young Group is planning their monthly visit to the Springfield Rescue Mission on Sunday, May 5th. They are looking for donations of cans of

tuna, brownie mix, baking items (flour, sugar, chocolate chips, etc.), and juice boxes.

If you have any of these items to donate, please bring them to church. Please call Patsy Traficante at 562-6224 or the church office at 786-5061 if you can help or need more information.

You or someone you know may be hurting deeply. Hurting people often base their self-worth on their performance or on other's opinions. This can give birth to intense fears of rejection or failure and to an overwhelming sense of shame and hopelessness. Depression, substance abuse, eating disorders, or other emotional problems often result.

The workshop will take place at the Feeding Hills Congregational Church. Please call the church at 786-5061 if you will be attending.

On the calendar this week:

Sunday, March 24th: 9:00 a.m., Sunday School/Adult Bible Literacy; 10:00 a.m., Service of Worship; 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m., OF Cut-a-thon; 7:15 p.m., Lenten Series continues at Agawam Congregational.

Monday, March 25th: Monday, OF Dinner Theatre rehearsal.

Tuesday, March 26th: 7:00 p.m., A.A.

Wednesday, March 27th: 7:00 p.m., Choir.

Thursday, March 28th: 7:00 p.m., Choir at Valley Community.

Saturday, March 30th: 10:00 a.m., Choir; 1:00 p.m., Sunday School baking in kitchen.

Rev. Stewart Lanier To Visit Ag. United Methodist Church

On March 28th at 7:30 p.m., The Rev. Stewart Lanier, one of the Conference Specialists in Conflict Management, will visit the Agawam United Methodist Church and meet with its Administrative Council.

Rev. Lanier, who has helped other churches to use their strengths in following new avenues for growth, will work with the A.U.M.C. to discover both strengths and weaknesses, as they challenge the church to face the possibilities of the future.

On Sunday, March 24th, a Men's Communion Breakfast will take place at 6:30 a.m. Communion will be in the sanctuary. The

breakfast will take place in the hall.

Special features for Palm Sunday will be the singing of the traditional anthem "The Palms" and the solo "The Holy City" by Mark Mickey.

The Freedom Choir of Springfield, Massachusetts, will perform a concert at the Agawam United Methodist Church, 459 Mill Street, Feeding Hills, on Sunday, April 21st, beginning at 5:00 p.m.

According to A.U.M.C. pastor, Rev. Reuben Telemaque, the choir represents a variety of religious confessions and sings traditional and contemporary music.

Book your presence at this upcoming concert by calling 786-5278 (leave your name).

Farewell Reception For Warren Hutchinson At First Baptist Church

There will be a farewell reception this Sunday, March 24th, following morning worship for organist Warren Hutchinson, who will be leaving First Baptist Church in Agawam after serving as its organist for over 12 years. All are invited to stay for this event.

Pastor Richard Barnes' message at the 9:30 a.m. service will be "The God in Human Skin," with scriptural text taken from Mark 4:35-41. His Lenten message will be augmented by special music by the choir.

Classes for all ages will follow the farewell reception. Nursery care is always available.

Midweek Lenten services continue on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m.

There are three study groups: a) Parent effectiveness group for parents of children through sixth grade; b) Parent and teenager group; c) Bible study group.

Plan to attend one of these meaningful study groups.

On our calendar this week:

Sunday, March 24th: 7:00 to 8:30 p.m., Youth Group Meeting.

Tuesday, March 26th: 10:00 a.m., Searchlighters Circle meets at the home of Dot Jenks; 1:15 p.m., EZ Does It Aerobics Class; 4:30 p.m., Our people serve at Loaves & Fishes (meals for the homeless).

Wednesday, March 27th: 7:00 a.m., Breakfast, meditation & prayer (Hall Chapel); 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Trading Post Open; 7:00 p.m., Lenten Study Groups.

Thursday, March 28th: 1:15 p.m., EZ Does It Aerobics Class; 7:30 p.m., Choir Rehearsal; 8:45 p.m., Music Committee Meets.

Saturday, March 30th: 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., "Kindling the Fire 1996" at the Marriott in Newton. For late reservations, call the church office.

There will be a special Palm Sunday breakfast at 8:30 a.m. on March 31st, sponsored by the Car-ing Connection and the Youth Leader Team.

Check the church office for reservation information.

Check our classified pages every week!!!

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Anniversaries * First Communions
Birthday Parties
Baby And Wedding Showers

Church News - continued...



Reflections...

submitted by
Rev. Peter Monahan
Pastor of the Church
of the Apostles,
Suffield, CT
(860) 668-4444 or
(413) 786-8735

The Bible instructs Christians to "Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children, and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."

Here the Bible is saying we are to learn how to live lives pleasing to God by following God's example. How can we follow the example of God if we can't even see Him? Billy Graham is fond of saying that if you want to know what God looks like, take a long look at Jesus Christ. The Bible tells us that Jesus Christ is the exact representation, the express image, of God. It would seem, therefore, that we should emulate the life of Jesus Christ.

Jesus is fairly well-known for many of the things He did during His ministry on earth. His was a life of performing miracles. However, not many of us will ever calm stormy seas, miraculously feed thousands of people with just tiny morsels of food, or heal epileptics and paralytics. While those sorts of miracles do still occur through the gifts of the Holy Spirit, for various reasons they are more rare in the Church today than they were through Jesus' earthly

ministry.

So what gives? If we are supposed to imitate God, which means to imitate Jesus, what are we expected to do if we are not going to regularly perform miracles? The answer lies behind God's desire for His people, that each of us become more and more like Christ, over time. The issue here is "being" rather than "doing."

Then, the "doing" will naturally flow out of our redeemed and renewed "beings." While every now and then the "doing" may involve a great miracle, more often the "doing" is more along the lines of living in a godly fashion. For example, Jesus faced and resisted many temptations from the devil.

The temptations usually had a common theme, which was to compromise His character in order to satisfy some very real human need or goal. Jesus was offered food, acceptance, and success; all desirable things which are good in themselves, but they were offered at the cost of violating God's will.

The devil even tried to twist the Scripture to make it fit his own interests. In each case, Jesus successfully stood up to the test. In addition, throughout His earthly life, Jesus modeled the fruits of the Holy Spirit, which are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. These were the descriptions of Jesus' character, not just some of His sporadic behavior. It is God's goal for us that these words would describe our lives as well.

There are a couple of practical things each of us can "do," in order that we can "be" such people. The first thing is to embrace Jesus Christ, not only as Savior, but as the Lord of our lives as well. Put Him in charge. The second thing each of us can do is to seek to know God better by prayer, reading the Bible, and spending time with Him in the company of fellow Christian believers. We can only imitate God if we get to know Him well.

St. John's Church Baptizes Six More Children

St. John the Evangelist Church recently welcomed the following children Baptized into their Faith Community:

Trinnity Lynn Agrapides, Angela Marie Ferrentino, Matthew John Godon, Christa Ember Marsh, Sheldon Wayne Perry, and Alycia Dawn Rackliffe.

Rev. Howard McCormick, pastor, performed the baptisms.

Shoe Sale Slated For St. John's Parish Ctr.

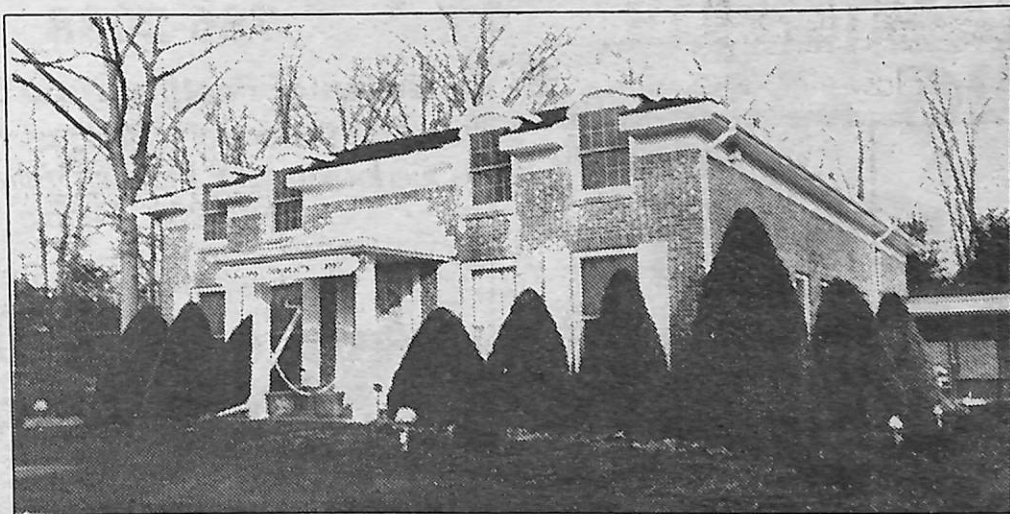
On Tuesday evening, March 26th, a shoe sale will be held at St. John's parish center, 823 Main St., Agawam.

Sponsored by St. John's Guild, the shoe sale will be from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Brand new women's shoes are at one price of \$12.

The public is invited.

Check our classified pages every week!

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Operation Friendship To Present A Fabulous "Mystery Dinner"

The Feeding Hills Chapter of Operation Friendship will be presenting an exciting Mystery Dinner offering, "I Wed Three Wives," on Saturday, April 13, 1996 at 6:30 p.m. at Feeding Hills Congregational Church, 21 North Westfield Street, Feeding Hills, MA.

Herb Fillbrook is married to three different women, all at the same time. When all three wives and Herb show up at the Feeding Hills Country Inn, all kinds of fireworks occur—including MURDER!

Come and see if you can solve the mystery before the erstwhile inspector. Comept with other tables to see who can win the evening's prize.

There is a choice of roast beef or breast of capon for this evening's dinner. Call 786-0195 or 789-3128 (please leave a message if you get an answering machine).

*Please remember
that Jack Devine
needs at least 48
hours notice*



Ask Dr.

by **Stephen Jacaparo,**
D.M.D.
1379 Main Street,
Agawam, MA 01001
(413) 786-8177

LIMITED STRAIGHTENING

Q. If one's teeth are crooked, is there any alternative to undergoing extensive treatment to straighten them?

A. Yes. Most often braces are applied to correct the alignment of all of the teeth. This is done for many adults as well as youngsters. But sometimes lesser objectives are appropriate.

In such cases, the objective may be limited to straightening only the front teeth. After all, the purpose is to improve the appearance of one's teeth. The reasoning is that the front teeth are highly visible, but other teeth are not. So, for some people, it's improvement enough to straighten only the front teeth. This is done at less cost and often in less time than the process of straightening all the teeth. If you want to improve the alignment of your teeth and enjoy improved appearance, consult the dentist to learn the what, why and how of different treatments.

NOT JUST FOR FILM STARS

For people in the 1930s, going to a movie was escape from the Depression. Lavish films of that time would become classics. Audiences also admired an unsung, uncommon quality: Film stars had perfect teeth—ideally shaped, proportioned and aligned. They had help: The stars were among the few of the era who could afford crowns to beautify their smiles.

Today you don't have to be a movie star to smile like one. Crowns are no longer for millionaires only. Better yet, new technologies and new materials can transform the appearance of teeth at less cost, with little altering of the natural teeth and no discomfort. Natural-color veneers give front teeth a new look. Synthetic resins allow the dentist to reduce gaps and change irregular teeth into pleasing shapes. If you are unhappy with the appearance of your teeth, visit the dentist to learn how you can have a movie-star smile.

Brought to you as a public service by Dr. Stephen R. Jacaparo, D.M.D., 1379 Main St., Agawam, MA 01001, (413) 786-8177.



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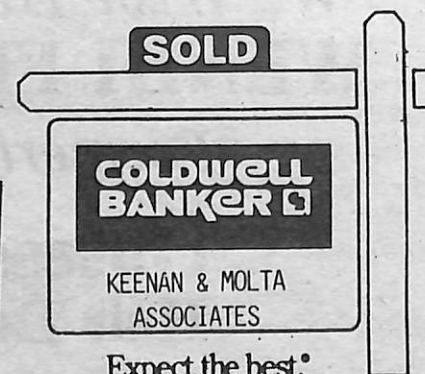
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Church News - continued...

Events & Activities At Sacred Heart Church

A "Parish Lenten Retreat" will take place March 23-28, 1996 at Sacred Heart Church, 1103 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills. The directors of the retreat will be Rev. John O'Brien, C.P. (Congregation of the Passion), and Mrs. Doreen Botone, Parish Minister, Archdiocese of Hartford, Connecticut.

The retreat will be comprised of these activities on the following dates:

Saturday, March 23rd: 4:00 p.m., Mass.
Sunday, March 24th: 7:30, 9:00, and 11:00 a.m., Masses; 1:00 p.m., Penance Service.
Monday, March 25th: 7:00 p.m., Mass.
Tuesday, March 26th: 7:00 p.m., Prayer Service.
Wednesday, March 27th: 7:00 p.m., Prayer Service.

Thursday, March 28th: 7:00 p.m., Mass.
 During the retreat, an informal gathering with refreshments will take place each weeknight in the Parish Center. All are welcome.

Women's Health Issues - "Taking Charge of Your Body" will be the focus of a presentation by Janice Canegallo, R.N., Director of Mercy Hospital's Women's Pavilion, on Thursday, April 11, 1996 at 7:00 p.m. in Sacred Heart Parish Center.

Included will be a discussion of menopause, osteoporosis, mammogram, and instruction in breast self-examination.

We encourage all women to come with their teenage daughters and their questions, to take advantage of this essential information for prevention and/or control of these common and potentially serious health problems.

This evening is being sponsored by the Community Life Commission and is free and open to the public. Arrangements were made by Hilda Bartnik, R.N.

Cub Pack 75's Annual Record Hop - Set for **Saturday, March 23rd, from 8:00 p.m. to 12:00 midnight.** This is an adult dance to benefit Cub Pack 75.

It will take place at the Springfield Turnverein, Garden Street, Feeding Hills. Bring your own snacks; there will be a cash bar and door prizes, and music will be provided by a D.J.

Tickets for \$6 in advance, and \$7 at the door. Contact Cheryl Fennyery at 789-1655 or Nancy Hallbauer at 786-2309.

Dance the Night Away with the Crescents - St. Mary's High School Parent Involvement Committee is sponsoring *The Crescents ... Rock & Roll Show Band* at Tekoa Country Club, Russell Road, Westfield, on **Saturday, March 30th, from 8:00 p.m. to 12:00 midnight.**

Have fun and dance to the hits from the '50s and '60s! A cash bar will be available, and bring your own snacks.

Tickets are on sale at STM High School, or call Karen Sarat at 562-0115.

News & Events For Next Few Week At St. David's Church

AT THE WEEKEND WORSHIP SERVICES OF ST. DAVID'S CHURCH:

- The Quiet Service, Saturday, from 5:00-6:00 p.m.

- The Traditional Service, Sunday, 8:00-9:00 a.m. (both held at the Church Building, 522 Springfield St., Feeding Hills, next to the American Legion).

- The Contemporary Service, Sunday, 10:00-11:30 a.m. (held at the Agawam Middle School, 68 Main St., Agawam).

Mr. Taylor Albright, candidate for ordination, will speak about the new life which Jesus Christ can bring, speaking from the story of Jesus' raising his friend, Lazarus, from the dead (John 11).

At the 10:00 a.m. service, which features childcare for small children, Sunday School for children in grades Pre-K through eight, and interpretation for the deaf, the Pastor will speak to the children about how God helps us when we're afraid.

In addition, a representative of the Gideons, a Bible distribution ministry, will speak about the work of this group.

The public is cordially invited to join us in worship, and to attend any of the following programs:

MEMBERS OF THE TWO OLDER YOUTH GROUPS WILL HELP THE MEMBERS OF THE KIDS-4-CHRIST YOUTH GROUP (for those in grades K-4) by escorting them to the Discovery Zone on Monday, March 25th.

The groups will meet at the Church Building at 3:45 p.m. and will return by 5:45 p.m. Adult supervision is required for children under the age of 10 (parents play for free!).

The cost will be \$2 for each youth (18 and under). Contact the church office by March 24th to register.

THE JUNIOR YOUTH GROUP, for youth in grades five through eight, will have pizza at the church building following the Discovery Zone trip, and then meet from 7:00-8:00 p.m., for discussion and planning for their helping to prepare and serve the Palm Sunday meal at the Agawam-West Springfield Open Pantry.

A DISCUSSION BIBLE STUDY FOR "SENIOR" WOMEN is now being held Tuesdays at 1:30 p.m. at the Church Building. A similar **BIBLE STUDY FOR ALL WOMEN** is held on Thursdays from 9:30-11:00 a.m., with childcare. No previous study experience or bible knowledge is necessary.

Contact the church office for further information.

THE LAST OF THE LENTEN MINI-RETREATS FOR ADULTS will be held on Wednesday, March 27th, from 7:00-8:00 p.m. at the church building. Featuring evening prayers, a brief meditation, a half-hour for silent reflection, closing conversation, and final prayers, the program focuses on Jesus' invitation, "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Contact the church office for further details.

ST. DAVID'S WILL HAVE A SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION at Heritage Hall Nursing Home on Thursday, March 28th, from 11:00-11:45 a.m. in the East Building.

This is a wonderful opportunity to encourage the Hall residents, reminding them that the Lord has promised to be with them always.

Weekly Calendar From Ag. Congregational

This Sunday, March 24th, is the Fifth Sunday of Lent. At the Agawam Congregational Church, 745 Main Street, Agawam, Rev. Fuller's sermon will be "Seasons of the Soul," taken from the text: John 11:1-6.

The Children's Message will be "The Change of Seasons." The Heifer Project continues through to Sunday, March 24th, when all monies collected are dedicated.

The joint Lenten Series with the Feeding Hills Congregational Church entitled "Faith Over Fear - A Lenten Journey" continues on Sunday nights at 7:15 p.m. On Sunday, March 24th, it will be at the Agawam Congregational Church.

The topic this week will be "Expectations: Yours or Mine?" This week will be of special interest to youth.

Rev. Rob Donaldson and Rev. Curt Fuller are leading the series of song, prayer, meditation, and discussion. Childcare will be provided.

The 456 CLUB continues to meet. All fourth through sixth graders are welcome to join in on all the fun and activities.

Meetings will be held each Friday night from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Advisors for this revived group are Charlene Trombley and Delores Martin.

A New Member Class will be held on Saturday, March 30th, at 10:00 a.m.

Anyone wishing to join the church is welcome to attend. Call the church office at 786-7111 for more info.

Country Line Dancing continues this Friday, March 22nd, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Let "Millie and the Gang" teach you all your favorite country dances.

The cost is \$5 for each class.

On Monday, March 25th, at 9:15 a.m., a planning meeting for the One Day Vacation Bible Camp (to be held on Friday, April 19th, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon) will take place in the Crib Room at the church.

Get ready for spring! The Annual Spring Festival, sponsored by the Ladies Aid Society, will be held on Saturday, March 30th, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Come on down and browse through the "Garden Gate" filled with flower decor, or the "Nutmeg Bakery" and treat yourself to the homemade baked goods.

Try our "Daffodil Lunch Cafe" for rest and refreshment. Enjoy a chicken salad plate, ham and potato salad, or seafood roll with lemon delight or fresh fruit for dessert, with coffee, tea, or milk for a beverage.

Other booths include: "The Country Craft Shop," "The Cutting Edge," "Clothesline Boutique," "Candy Cupboard," "This 'N That," "Attic Treasures," "Eleanor's Magic Needle," and a "Young Adult & Youth Booth."

Don't forget your raffle tickets for a very special handcrafted prize. So ... come for an hour or stay for a while. See you there.

Any questions? Call the church office at 786-7111.

All the local news with us, each week



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Spotlight On Business

House Of Cheesecakes Now Breakfast & Lunch Stop



THE HOUSE OF CHEESECAKES has changed its location to 351 Main Street (across from Nissen's) and is now serving breakfast and lunch seven days a week. Their famous cheesecakes are also made fresh daily. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

MIKE CHRISTODOLOUS is the owner and operator of THE HOUSE OF CHEESECAKES, Breakfast & Lunch Stop at 351 Main Street, Agawam. Mike is serving breakfast and lunch and is still baking his famous cheesecakes (fresh) each day. Advertiser News photos by Jack Devine.



DENISE SPANILO



AGNES RUSZCZYK

Two Newschu Associates Complete Training

Denise Spanilo and Agnes Ruszczyk recently graduated from the CENTURY 21 "21 Plus" Training program. It provides associates with a strong foundation which gives them the competitive edge they need to establish and maintain their real estate business.

"21 Plus" includes training in building sales skills, prospecting for and proper servicing of clients and customers, as well as personal goal

planning.

"It's the perfect vehicle to jump-start their real estate career," according to their trainer, Karen Gelineau, national trainer for CENTURY 21 Real Estate Corporation.

Denise and Agnes are associated with CENTURY 21 Newschu Real Estate, Inc., located in the Southgate Plaza, Agawam.

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Spotlight On Business - continued...

Westfield Savings Donates To Scottish Fest



ANDY LOGAN of the Melha Highlanders (right) adds an authentic Scottish flavor to the proceedings as Westfield Savings Bank Senior Vice President Victor J. Carra, Jr. (second from left) presents a contribution of \$1,000 to Ann Southworth, co-chairwoman of the First Congregational Church of Blandford White Church Restoration Committee. The bank's contribution has been earmarked for the church's Scottish Festival on July 27th. Also in photo (left) is David Walmsely, who will act as master of ceremonies for the festival.

Agawam Residents Contribute Over \$2,800 To Easter Seal Promo At Friendly's Rest.

Agawam residents contributed \$2,837 to Easter Seals by buying valentines and coupon books at Friendly's Restaurants during January and February. The money will fund Easter Seal services that help people with disabilities expand their independence.

This was a record year for the Friendly CONES FOR KIDS program. The 15th annual fundraiser yielded \$387,000 in Massachusetts and \$1.4 million nationwide.

For their \$1 contributions, Friendly's customers received five valentine cards featuring Charles

Schulz's Peanuts characters or an adult coupon book. Each card was redeemable for one child-size ice cream cone, for a total value of \$4.20. Coupon books were a \$9 value.

Proceeds from the CONES FOR KIDS program fund home Health Care and Therapy services, swim programs, summer camp, equipment loan, stroke support groups, physical and occupational therapy, speech therapy, technology for independence and information and referral services.



GAIL A. BUTLER

Gail A. Butler Named Top Sales Agent At George & Green Co.

George & Green Real Estate Co., Inc. is pleased to announce that Gail Ann Butler has achieved the number-one sales position in the company for 1995.

Gail's high energy level and diligent attention to detail has helped propel her to this position. With over \$2 million in listings and sales, Gail has successfully serviced many buyers and sellers in the Greater Springfield area.

In addition to chairing committees at the Greater Springfield Association of Realtors, she has served on both the local and state Board of Directors and has been an instructor for the Real Estate "Success Series."

Gail has earned two national designations, Certified Residential Specialist (CRS) and Graduate Realtor Institute (GRI).

In her spare time, Gail coaches the Westfield High School girls' tennis team.

The year 1996 promises to be an even better one. Call Gail at the Westfield office, 568-2851, and have her work for you.



The Westfield Theatre Group
a department of the Westfield Woman's Club

presents

Rodgers & Hammerstein's

Cinderella

Music by Richard Rodgers

Book & Lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II

Directed by
Bob LavioletteMusical Director
Karen DionCo-Choreographers
Stacy Ashley
Alison Forance

APRIL
12, 13, 19, 20,
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PLUS
Special Matinees
April 20 & 27 at 2:00 P.M.

All performances at the
Westfield Woman's Club, 28 Court Street, Westfield
Tickets — \$10, \$8 for students & seniors
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— Tickets not available at the door —

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MARCH
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Twist and shout all
night long with the area's
favorite show and dance band's
high energy renditions of all the hits
from the '50s and '60s!

During the past decade the ten-member
group has shared stages with the Drifters;
Danny and the Juniors; the Del Vikings;
Blood, Sweat and Tears; and jazz artist
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From the first beat to the last, the Crescents
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CASH BAR AVAILABLE

Patrons may bring their own snacks

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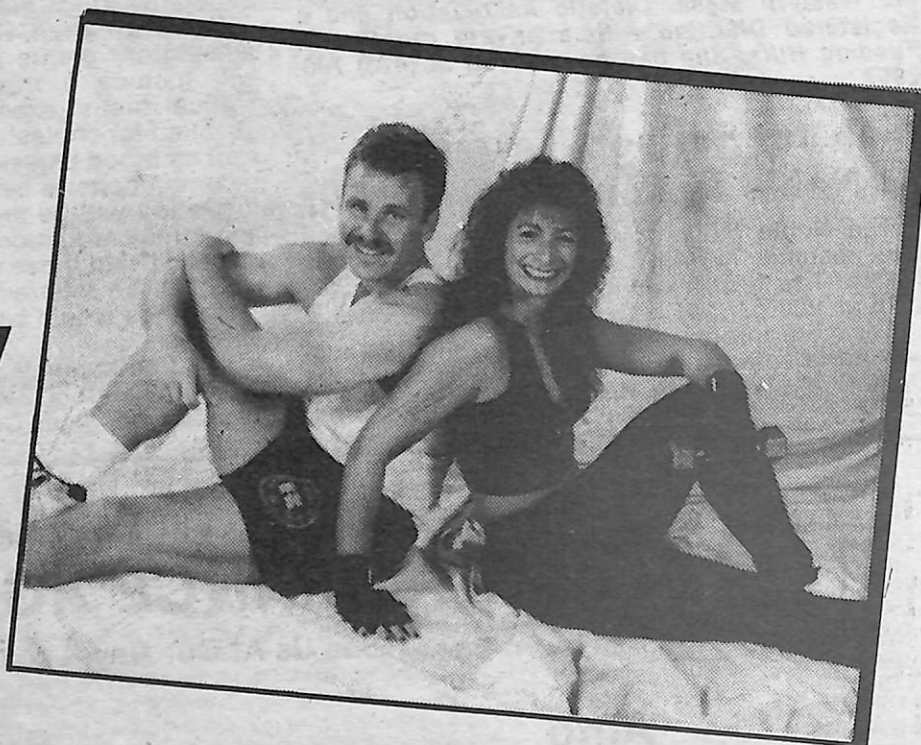
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For Your Health



Food for Thought

by Nancy Dell
Registered Dietician

What Is Lactose Intolerance?

There's good news for people who like milk but think milk doesn't like them. According to the International Food Information Council, adults who believe they are lactose intolerant may actually be able to stomach eight ounces of milk a day with meals without ill effects.

"Lactose intolerance is not an all-or-nothing proposition," said Michael Levitt, MD, study author and director of research at the Minneapolis Veterans Affairs Medical Center. "It's more a question of how much milk one drinks than whether one can drink any milk at all."

Defining Lactose Intolerance

Lactose intolerance is the inability to digest significant amounts of lactose, the predominant sugar in milk. This inability results from a shortage of the enzyme lactase, which is normally produced in the small intestine.

The lactase breaks down milk sugar into simpler forms that can be absorbed into the bloodstream. If the milk sugar is not broken down, it is transported to the large intestine where it's fermented by bacteria, producing short-chain fatty acids and gas.

Only if the body cannot dispose of these products does an individual develop gastrointestinal symptoms.

In reality, most of the world's adult population cannot digest lactose. While human infants are born with high levels of the enzyme lactase, there is a genetically programmed decline in lactase levels after weaning in most racial and ethnic groups except Caucasian North Americans and northern Europeans.

As many as 75 percent of African-Americans and Native Americans and 90 percent of Asian-American adults are lactase deficient.

However, not all lactase-deficient persons are necessarily lactose intolerant. The diagnosis of lactose intolerance is made by a physician when the incomplete absorption of lactose, as measured by a rise in breath hydrogen, is accompanied by gastrointestinal symptoms such as gas, bloating or diarrhea.

PART I - Part II NEXT WEEK

Nancy Dell, MS, is the Media Representative for the Western Mass. Dietetic Association and a Registered Dietitian with a private practice in Feeding Hills. She can be reached at (413) 786-2957.

Diabetes Support Group At Noble Hospital March 26th

The Noble Hospital Diabetes Support Group will resume monthly meetings beginning in March. The first meeting is on Tuesday, March 26th at 1:00 p.m.

For more information about the diabetes support group, please call the Community Relations Department at Noble Hospital at 568-2811, ext. 5577.



Living Well

by Rick Hersom
Fitness Director
Fitness First Health
and Fitness Center
60 N. Westfield St., F.H.
(413) 786-1460

Exercise For Large Bodies

There are several factors that a large person needs to remember before beginning an exercise program. The most important is that you should not let your size deter you from exercising.

When you decide to exercise, you are taking control of your life, your health, and your destiny. This is a positive step that you should be proud of.

Other things to keep in mind are:

1. Discontinue anything that causes pain or discomfort.

2. Select a shoe that is comfortable and provides good support.

3. Choose low-impact activities that place little stress on your knees and spine.

4. Avoid any fast movements or twisting.

5. When getting up from the floor, you may find it easier to roll on to your side, then life your body onto your hands and knees. Next, support your hands on your knees as you come to a standing position.

6. Any exercise that is done on the floor can also be done in a chair or standing. Ask a fitness professional for alternate exercises.

7. Warm up adequately, and include stretching to relieve muscle tension.

Starting an exercise program slowly and gradually increasing intensity and duration is very important. After checking with your physician, do not waste any time getting started. Your health is worth immediate attention.

Make sure that you look for advice from a fitness professional that is certified and has a degree (and do not believe everything you see on the infomercials) like at Fitness First.



**Chiropractic
Care
by
Dr. Tami Nelson
Chiropractic
Physician**
Hampden County
Chiropractic
850 Springfield St.
Feeding Hills
786-4820

Another Case History...

Here is another exciting case history as written by one of our patients:

What was your health problem?

Chronic sinus headaches, tension, and muscle spasms in upper back area, and during last pregnancy experienced low back pain.

How long had it troubled you?

Several years.

Describe what chiropractic has done for you:

Chiropractic care has brought relief from spasms and has reduced sinus headache occurrence. I rarely rely on "over-the-counter" sinus relief. I also appreciate the education process in better nutrition, stress management, and stretching exercises to enhance my health maintenance.

What have you told others about your experience with chiropractic?

Chiropractic care is not restricted to sore backs. Our body's well-being is connected to our spine, the life-line of nerves and circulation. Chiropractic relieves and heals root causes of countless ailments as opposed to over-the-counter medications that mask symptoms.

What would you suggest to someone with a similar problem?

Get several opinions and try the natural alternatives first. Chiropractic works with your body to bring about recovery.

Dr. Nelson maintains an office at Hampden County Chiropractic, 850 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills. She is available to answer questions at 786-4820 from 1:00-2:00 p.m. on Monday and Wednesday.

Baystate Medical Center Offering Program For Women Over 50 With No Insurance

Women who are 50 years of age and older and who have no health insurance coverage, are eligible for a free health screening provided by Baystate Medical Center. The program is part of a research study funded by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. The screening will be limited to 150 women.

Barbara Farrell, RN, coordinator of Baystate's ambulatory grants program, said the screening will include a mammogram, pap smear, and clinical breast exam. Each woman will also be checked for cholesterol and blood sugar levels as well as blood pressure. Participants will be given a comprehensive health risk assessment, and information will be provided on nutrition, exercise and stress reduction.

Farrell said those women who require follow-up care will be referred for treatment. She said the screenings would be repeated at six months and one year.

The free screenings will be held on five dates between March 23rd and April 3rd at three Baystate Medical Center facilities: the Wesson

Woman and Infants' Clinic, the Brightwood Health Center, and the Mason Square Neighborhood Health Center.

Refreshments will be available and each woman will receive a free gift for taking part in the screening. For more information or to register, call The Professionals at 784-2255 or 1-800-377-HEALTH.

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Arts

Vincent Govoni Of Agawam Is In St. Martha Players' Show

Businessman Vincent R. Govoni of Springfield Street in Agawam has been cast in the Enfield, Connecticut-based St. Martha Cabaret Players' production of "Meet Me In St. Louis." Performances begin April 19th and run for four weekends.

Govoni, Funeral Director of the Agawam Funeral Home and the Leete-Stevens Enfield Chapels, is in his fifth production with the theatre group. He has appeared previously in their productions of "Music Man," "Fiddler On The Roof," "Annie," and "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat." Govoni is also an organist at four local churches and plays clarinet in two summer concert bands.

Also cast are Springfield residents Wayne Robertson, Heather Bourbeau, Elena Opitz, and David Gorman.

"Meet Me In St. Louis" is set around the opening of the St. Louis World Fair in 1903. The story revolves around the Smith family, young love, and a possible uprooting of the family when Mr. Smith is asked to accept a new position in New York City.

The show is filled with well-loved songs like "Meet Me In St. Louis," "The Trolley Song," "The Boy Next Door," "Skip To My Lou," and "Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas."

Directing the production is Channel 22's *Reel to Reel* co-host, Anna Giza. Musical direction will be provided by Steven D. Cirillo; the choreography is by Colleen Bartlett-Taylor.

More information and tickets can be obtained by calling (860) 745-6368.

"Easter Cards In The Hall" At The Ag. Public Library

Agawam and Feeding Hills children in grades K and up are welcome to come in anytime between 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 30th, to create Easter cards with materials we provide.

As you check out your books, ask for your craft kit and start to have fun.

Please register to reserve a kit by calling 789-1550 or stopping by at 750 Cooper Street.

Best local news...

Westfield Theatre Group Prepares For Spring Musical, "Cinderella"

The Westfield Theatre Group, a department of the Westfield Woman's Club, has announced the cast for its production of Rodgers and Hammerstein's musical, *Cinderella*, to open on April 12, 1996. The show is directed by Bob Laviolette with Karen Dion as musical director, and will star Amy Millette in the title role and Brad Thayer as Prince Christopher Rupert.

Ms. Millette is making her first appearance with the Westfield Theatre Group, but it is certainly not her first leading role. She was last seen as Fanny Brice in *Funny Girl* at Northampton High School. She has also previously portrayed Eliza Doolittle in *My Fair Lady*, and *Cinderella* with the Country Players. In 1995, Ms. Millette was voted Best Actress in a Musical (Community Theater) by Bravo Newspaper for her portrayal of Dorothy in *The Wizard of Oz* with South Hadley Community Theater.

Ms. Millette has had nine years of vocal training and four years of dance training with the Hackworth School of Performing Arts. In her spare time, she is a backup singer with the band "Check Please." She is a soloist at the First Church in Northampton, and teaches acting classes for children ages six through eight at the Shea Theater.

Mr. Thayer returns to the Westfield stage after a brief hiatus. He was last seen with WTG as Conrad Birdie in *Bye Bye Birdie*. He has previously played Li'l Abner in the show of the same name, and Lt. Cable in *South Pacific*. Mr. Thayer brings to the stage a wonderful voice and a presence worthy of a prince.

thy of a prince.

The roles of the King and Queen will be portrayed by Ernie Desroches and Katherine Levey, of Chicopee and Westfield, respectively. Mr. Desroches was last seen with WTG as Murray in *The Odd Couple*, and Ms. Levey most recently played Toni Crawford in WTG's production of *Thirteen Past Midnight*. The Prince's Herald is played by Doug LaPlante and Michael Buzzee plays the Page. Carol Palmer will play Cinderella's Stepmother, and her Stepsisters will be played by Susan Ingraham and Stacy Ashley. Laura Lezon-Scantlen will play Cinderella's Fairy Godmother.

Other cast members include WTG veterans Rick and Roxanne Buzzee, Kathryn Leary, Rock Palmer, Shelley Haber, Dan Deery, Carol O'Neill, Sharon Correia, Jackie Gilmartin, Janine Laviolette, Tricia Hatch, and Joel Schwartz. Newcomers to the WTG stage include Diane Correia, Tim Wetherell, Corey Vuelta, and Dan Scheuer.

Performance dates are April 12th, 13th, 19th, 20th, and 27th, all at 8:00 p.m. There will also be two matinees on April 20th and 27th at 2:00 p.m. The opening night has been sold out to the Westfield Area Mental Health Clinic, and tickets for opening night only can be obtained by calling the Clinic.

Tickets for all other performances are \$10 for adults and \$8 for students and seniors. Reservations can be made by calling the theater at 572-6838. Tickets may be picked up beginning April 1, 1996 at the theater box office Monday through Thursday, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Budding Actor Class Being Held By STAGE At Red Door Theatre In F.H.

Do you have a budding actor? Someone who loves to pretend, show off, puts on little shows, sings and dances, talks up a storm? If so, then STAGE's "Creative Dramatics" class may be the creative venture you have been looking for.

The five Saturday morning sessions—which begin this Saturday, March 23rd, from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m.—offer an introduction to the performing arts through music, movement, and dramatic activities that help the young child develop vocal and listening skills, promote physical coordination and flexibility, and broaden the imagination.

This is the third session in a series of successful workshops geared for youngsters from four to seven years-old. The classes are taught by Lyle Pearsons and Margie Secora, former early elementary teachers and award-winning actor/directors who are well-known for their performances as KIT AND KABOODLE PRODUCTIONS.

The classes are held at The Red Door Theatre, 152 South Westfield Street in Feeding Hills. The fee for the class is \$50.

For more information or to register your child, call 789-2026.

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- On Easter Sunday, April 7th, we will examine the historical evidence of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- Was Jesus Christ really raised from the dead or not? The answer to that question has significant and personal ramifications for every man, woman, and child.
- 10:00 A.M. Sunday Morning Worship Service at the VFW Hall, located at 972 Sheldon Road (off Mountain Road - Rt. 168) in Suffield, Connecticut.
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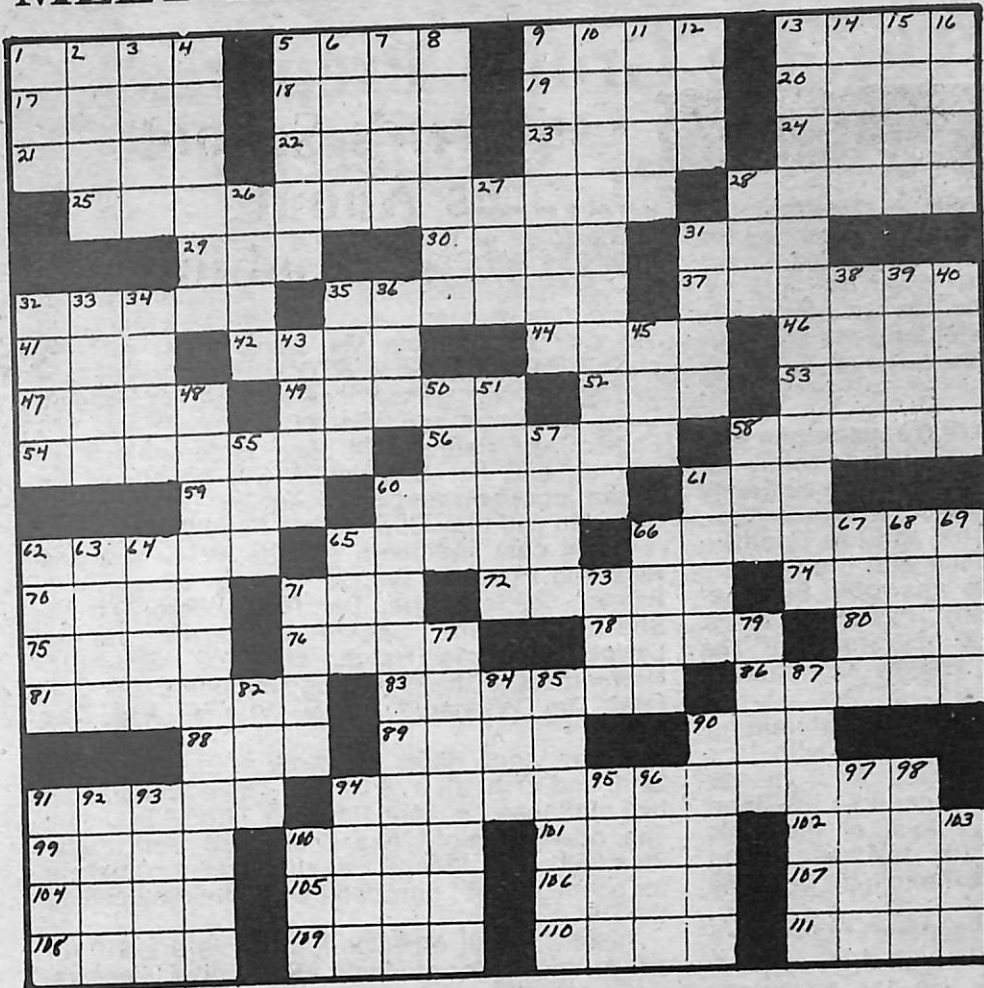
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19 Oddly (Scot. dial.)
20 Designer Cassini
21 In the near future
22 Lucy's landlord
23 Actor Nolte
24 Cleo's waterway
25 Work's destroyer?
28 Glide on blades
29 Over to a poet
30 "Jeopardy" host Trebek
31 See soundalike
32 Allan Ladd movie classic
35 Things of value
37 Laity
41 Boulder in Soho
42 What Popeye smoked
44 Greek portico
46 Prefix for chute
47 Composer Khachaturian
49 Gaggle members
52 Bridge maven Culbertson
53 Forearm bone
54 Took away
56 Love in Italia
58 Mexican people
59 Take-home pay
60 Rolls up
61 "La —" S.A.
62 English poet William
65 "I — song coming on"
66 Small onion
70 One to Mozart
71 Draw a bead on
72 Resin
74 "Be at —"

- 75 Chinese off-shore island
76 Boast
78 William the archer
80 Follower (suffix)
81 Go back on one's word
83 Extol
86 Brought into the open
88 Formerly named
89 Angel's instrument
90 Brooch
91 Tan color
94 Fancy attire
99 King of the Huns
100 Like jawbreakers
101 "— Hand Luke" (movie)
102 Toward the mouth
104 Former Yankee pitcher Johnny
105 Sheltered
106 Actor Tamiroff
107 Like Beauty's Beast
108 Swiss artist
109 "— Majesty"
110 "Pros and —"
111 Enamel wear
- ## DOWN
- 1 Tax agency
2 Fate
3 Melville title
4 Singer from Liverpool
5 Conclude
6 Grant the actor
7 Witches' concoction
8 Cotton cloth
9 14-line poems
10 Wags
11 Cunning
12 Tibetan ox
13 Chilean timber tree
14 Other (Lat.)
15 Thaw
16 Tommy of baseball
26 Retain
27 Aisle or eel (Fr.)
28 Ross or Dead

- 31 All once
32 Wound reminder
33 Loser to the tortoise
34 Garden patriarch
35 Mimed
36 Observe
38 Milkshake additive
39 Sea eagle
40 Part of NAACP
43 "— a kick out of..."
45 Bullring cheer
48 Pile driver apparatus
50 Cloy
51 Author Zola
55 Plunging neck shape
57 Type of test
58 Automobile club
60 Signals with flags
61 Mario's Donahue
62 Goldilocks' host
63 G & T additive
64 Shortly
65 Cone-bearing tree
66 Peter Pan pirate
67 Den
68 Bone (prefix)
69 "— off"
71 "Busy as —"
73 Aliens
77 Spanish nobleman
79 Secular
82 Word meaning my gosh
84 Noah's craft
85 Bronchitis treatment
87 Edit in a way
90 Desert trees
91 Lie in warmth
92 And others
93 Natasie
94 Boar or stallion
95 Wife of 4D
96 Enlist
97 Therefore
98 Like the avg. NBA player
100 Actor Linden
103 Color

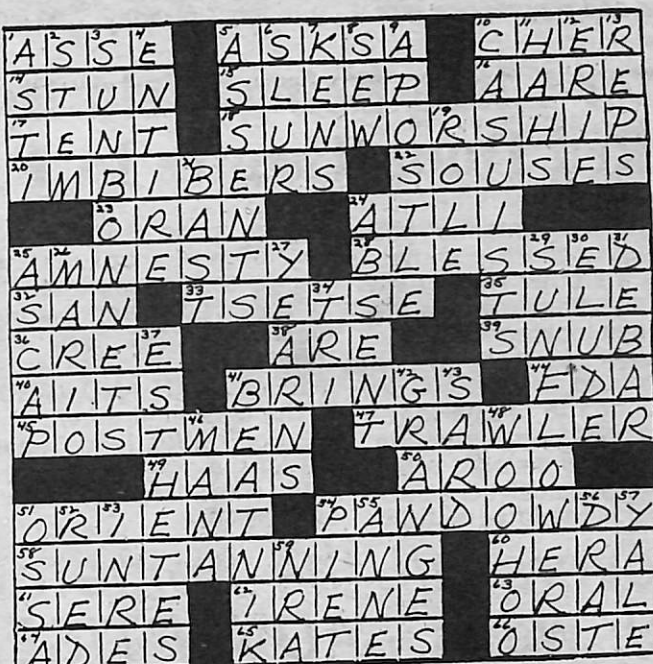
Hilltop Players Set Next Show

The Hilltop Players Family Theatre will present the Broadway musical "Once Upon A Mattress" on May 10th, 11th, 17th, and 18th, at 7:30 p.m., and a special Mother's Day (Sunday, May 12th) matinee at 2:00 p.m.

The hilarious musical, which marked the debut of Carol Burnett, will be presented at The Red Door Theatre, 152 South Westfield Street, Feeding Hills.

For more information, call 789-7026.

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Education

Agawam High Seniors Speed Up Drive For Electric Car Funds

by Kathy Cassanelli
News Editor

It's too late for them to realize their dream of driving in an electric car rally this year.

But, a determined group of Agawam High School seniors is canvassing local businesses in an effort to raise enough money to leave behind a legacy from the class of 1996.

AHS tech ed students, under the direction of teachers Don Dorazio, John Korb, and Bill Zaengle, still have enough time to complete the electric car they have been working on since last spring. The car could be on the road by the middle of next month if the students can raise another \$2,800 to purchase a charging system and the 20 batteries they will need to power their converted 1986 Mazda RX7.

"We know it's a tough time to be asking for money," Zaengle said. "There are a lot of intensive needs out there."

Zaengle said the students were disappointed they could not meet their goal of finishing the electric car in time to enter the American Tour de Sol running from New York City to Washington, D.C. in May. But they're not discouraged.

The kids agreed their new goal is to see their car out on the road before they graduate. They'll be happy to see next year's class enter the Tour de Sol or an electric vehicle race coming to Stafford Springs Raceway in October.

Even if (this year's) seniors didn't get their chance to race the car, it will be something to leave for next year's class to do and for others in the future, according to student Kevin Bovat.

Student Tony Fillion agreed. "And this is something that can be added to as technology changes."

The students said they wanted the car to be used as an environmental teaching tool at the elementary and middle schools.

Pleased With The Project...

Korb said he was pleased with the project. It converted a car powered by an internal combustion engine to an electric vehicle because kids are always excited about working on cars, and this was the chance to engage kids in a project that grabbed their interest (while dealing with environmental issues that will affect them for the rest of their lives), he noted.

Student Carl Wesley, Jr. said, "Personally, I'm an environmental junkie and I plan to work as an environmental police officer after college. That's what makes me excited about this car."

Heading up the student fundraising group, Rose Oppedisano says she has had a good response from local business owners to letters and phone calls asking for financial support.

"So far, we've gotten about \$5,600," Rose said. "What other group can say they've raised as much without selling candy bars?"

Rose said the students were thankful for the support they have received so far. Anyone interested in donating to the fund can contact the school at 789-1400, ext. 421.

At presstime, the list of sponsors of the electric car included:

Agawam Rotary Club; St. John the Evangelist Church; WWLP-TV 22 (Brissette TV of Springfield); Agawam Lions Club; KEIKO; Webster, R.G. Enterprises; Control Pak of New England; McDonald's; TLC Gel-Tron Int'l Corp.; Hampden County Chiropractic; David Young; Northeast Utility Company; John's Trucking of Agawam, Inc.

BayBank; Scott's Citgo; "Crankers" Antique Car Club, LTD; Richard C. Morassi, Esquire; Sarat Ford Sales, Inc.; Longo Carpet Cleaning; Model A Restorers Club; Luigi's Auto Body; Parrotta's Auto Repair and Sales; Mechanical Plastic, Inc.; Woodard Electric; Silver Hill Auto Sales; Woronoco Savings Bank; and Witch Equipment of N.E., Inc.

Ryder To Meet With PTO Chiefs & Councils

Superintendent Bernard F. Ryder would like to meet with all PTO presidents/school council co-chairs (or representative) on Wednesday, March 27, 1996 at 10:15 a.m. in the superintendent's conference room.

Scheduled for the agenda, will be six support committees: test scores; teaching-staff development; discipline; budget; posted plan book; report cards.

Best local news...



POSING WITH THEIR ELECTRIC CAR at Agawam High School are, from left - Rosemarie Oppedisano, Kevin T. Bovat, Carl J. Wesley, Jr., and Tony Fillion. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Children's School Learns About Physical Disabilities

Youngsters at Children's School in Feeding Hills will learn about physical disabilities during the week of March 19th through a special Easter Seal program, sponsored by TJ Maxx, WB56, WWLP-TV22, and Business Equipment Depot.

The Easter Seal HOP-N-ING teaches children about the causes of disabilities and their efforts on people's everyday lives. The children also find out how wheelchairs, crutches, and other specialized equipment work.

The next part of HOP-N-ING gives the kids a chance to help. They hop as many times as they can in three minutes, earning money pledged for each hop by family and friends. Funds raised help provide Easter Seal services that expand independence for men, women, and children with disabilities. Services include summer camp, therapeutic swim programs, home health care, physical and occupational therapy, speech therapy, equipment loan, technology for independence, support groups for people recovering from strokes, and information and referral services.

Last year, nearly 16,000 children across Massachusetts learned about disabilities and hopped for Easter Seals, raising \$212,000.

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Agawam High English Faculty Unanimous In Keeping 9th-10th Grade Honors Program Out

by Kathy Cassanelli
News Editor

At its Tuesday, March 12th meeting, the School Committee refused to consider a motion proposed by Vice-Chairwoman Teresa Kozloski to institute an honors program in the English curriculum for ninth and 10th graders.

Acting AHS Principal Joseph Zabielski said the English faculty supported the School Committee's two year-old (unanimous) decision to offer a heterogeneous program that groups students of all ability levels for instruction in freshman classes this year and sophomore classes next year.

"We have analyzed the curriculum and we would like to continue and experiment with the curriculum as it is. The general sentiment is that it is working," Zabielski said. "Within the curriculum, we can meet the needs of advanced students."

Under the plan adopted by the School Committee two years ago, freshmen and sophomores are assigned to English classes without regard to ability levels. Juniors and seniors select their English courses from several half-year electives in literature and writing (with the proviso that students must choose one literature course and one writing course each year).

Seniors have the option of bypassing the electives to enroll in the Advanced Placement course that can be accepted for college credit (if students score satisfactorily on a standardized test).

A self-described "late convert" to the heterogeneous grouping concept, veteran English teacher Lawrence O'Brien said teaching a general English course three years ago to students who had been in the lower track since seventh grade was the worst experience in a 26-year teaching career.

"The reason: those kids had so much negative reinforcement since the seventh grade due to tracking, it was impossible to teach them anything," O'Brien said.

Teaching a heterogeneously grouped ninth grade class, O'Brien said he has seen students achieve more than they would have in a tracked class.

"We're using the ninth grade high-ability textbook and we're reading 'Great Expectations,' a

book I would never have chosen for a general English class. All of my students are doing the reading and all are doing projects," O'Brien said. "I have no hesitation in saying that students will be ready for AP English in 12th grade."

O'Brien not only teaches the AP course for college-bound seniors, he designed it.

Giving Heterogeneous Grouping A Chance
O'Brien said the faculty agreed that heterogeneous grouping was working and should be given a chance. "Two years ago you voted unanimously for this and now that we have it in place, I'm surprised to be back here to defend the policy."

English Academic Coordinator Rosemary Stratton said the U.S. Supreme Court had long ago discarded the concept of "separate but equal education."

"Separate but equal is not acceptable in the classroom, either," Mrs. Stratton said.

The faculty is satisfied with what is going on in

the ninth-grade classrooms, and Superintendent of Schools Bernard F. Ryder has kept his word on keeping the numbers low in the heterogeneous classes, Mrs. Stratton said.

The teachers are adapting to and willing to shoulder the added workload of half-year literature and writing courses grouped heterogeneously. Mrs. Stratton noted student stereotypes are breaking down as kids get to know other kids they might not ever have spoken to.

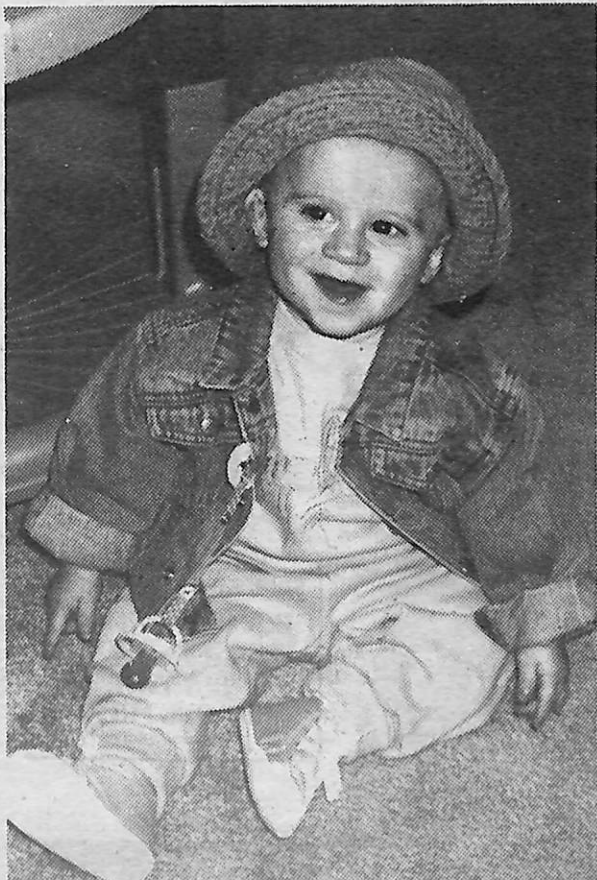
English teacher Irene Thomas said one of the sidelights to the move to heterogeneous classes is a reduction in discipline problems.

"There's a positive peer pressure and we don't have the same discipline problems. It's a very positive learning experience," Mrs. Thomas said.

Mrs. Stratton suggested an added portfolio of work could be completed by students wishing an advanced credit grade instead of a separate class for an hours program.

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Elementary School Budgets Receive Tentative Approval From School Committee

by Kathy Cassanelli
News Editor

At the first school budget workshop held on Wednesday, March 13th, the School Committee gave its initial approval to spending plans for the four elementary schools, the gifted program, the School Committee, the central office, and transportation.

In its first deliberations on the budget for fiscal year 1997 (July 1, 1996 - June 30, 1997), the School Committee made no changes in the \$18.6 million request submitted by School Superintendent Bernard F. Ryder and Associate Superintendent Donald Charest.

Up \$1.1 million, the budget is up approximately 6.4 percent over last year and includes a 3.5 increase in salaries.

Charest said the largest percentage of the budget (77 percent) goes for salaries. "We're a people-oriented business and our highest cost is our people."

Agawam has a veteran teaching staff with more than half of the teachers holding master's degrees. More than 83 percent of teachers are at the top two steps of the pay scale based on their years of service.

Charest said the budget was prepared under the new format adopted by the School Committee earlier this year. Under the new system, the 32 cost centers of past budgets have been pared down to 17 cost centers.

Charest said the new format gives a better accounting of the actual cost to run each school building by apportioning all costs to a particular building.

For instance, athletics is no longer a separate cost center, but is figured into the High School budget. Also, band is no longer a separate cost center—the costs for the band program have been assigned to the individual schools.

Charest said the budget was "a reasonable amount of dollars to request."

The budget requests approved for the four elementary schools were Clark, \$696,103; Robin-

son Park, \$902,287; Granger, \$928,080; and Phelps, \$779,090.

Last year, the School Committee originally voted to ax the gifted program, but protests from parents saved it for elementary and Middle School students. This year, the committee gave its unanimous approval to a budget of \$90,305, an increase of about \$21,000.

Elementary Program in Heterogeneous Grouping

School Committee member Linda Galarneau questioned where a separate program for elementary students fits into the heterogeneous grouping program. "I don't see how we can do a separate program for elementary students."

As the principal overseeing the gifted program, Granger's Phyllis Lewis said the program fits into the heterogeneous program the same way resource rooms and Advanced Placement courses fit in.

Mrs. Lewis said the program gives children who can take their studies to a higher level a place to shine and a safe haven to be themselves. Mrs. Lewis said the program was "absolutely necessary."

The School Department's five-year bus contract will be up at the end of the year. Bids for next year are expected to reflect a slight increase in costs, Charest said.

The budget for transportation and Camp Rainbow was approved at \$1,280,600.

Also approved were requests for \$40,020 for the School Committee's cost center and \$396,943 to run the central office.

After the School Committee gives its tentative approval to the entire budget, the spending plan goes to the Mayor, who can cut or increase the budget before sending it on to the Town Council for final adoption as part of the town's overall budget. The council can either approve the budget submitted by the Mayor or make cuts, but it cannot make increases to the budget.

Agawam Schools' Weekly Lunch Menu

Monday, March 25th: Hamburg in roll, oven potato puffs, steamed peas & carrots, chilled fruit cup, milk.

Tuesday, March 26th: Rotini with meatsauce, creamy cabbage salad, Italian bread & butter, pineapple tidbits or jello with topping, milk.

Wednesday, March 27th: Oven-baked chicken nuggets, seasoned carrot coins, parsley rice, honey & cranberry sauce, whole wheat bread & butter, million dollar cookie, milk.

Thursday, March 28th: Pepperoni-topped pizza, tossed garden salad with creamy Italian dressing, baked apple crisp, milk.

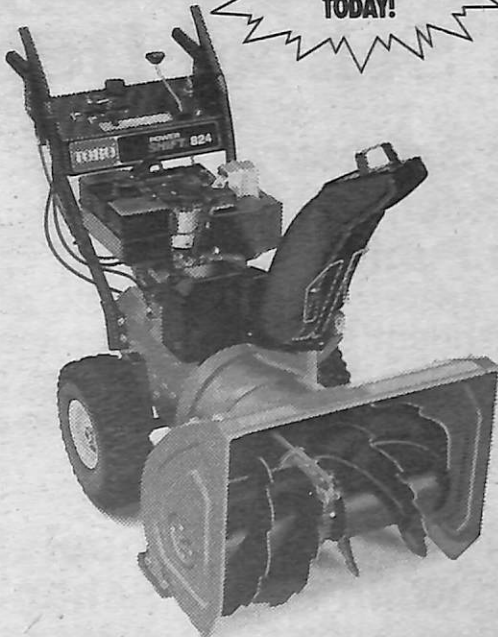
Friday, March 29th: Grilled cheese sandwich, pickle chips, country mixed vegetables, chilled fruit cup or apple spice cake, milk.

* **REMINDER:** Elementary lunch is \$1/per day or \$5/per week.

best local news...

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Now Open Saturdays ... 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon
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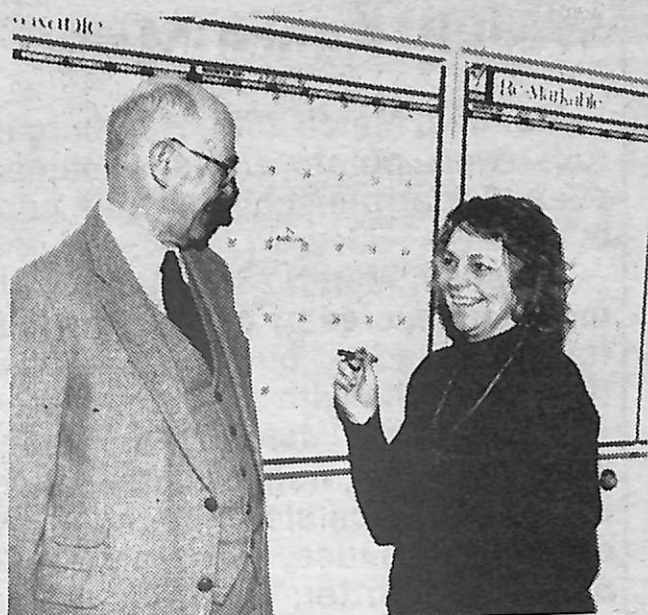


Vinny Palange



Frank Palange

School Calendar...



SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS Bernard F. Ryder goes over the 4-Month calendars bought by the town's PTO's for the central office to help coordinate school activities. Ryder is pictured with Junior High PTO President Donna Shibley. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Budget Workshop Set By School Committee For Mon., March 25

The Agawam School Committee will hold a Budget Workshop meeting on Monday, March 25, 1996 in the **Middle School Auditorium**, 68 Main Street, Agawam, to discuss the following budgets:

Middle School, Junior High School, Senior High School.

The meeting will be held from 7:00-9:00 p.m.



AHS Guidance...

by Judith Cohen
Acting Director
AHS Guidance Dept.

GUIDANCE BULLETIN

COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES - Congratulations! Lisa Cassanelli, New York University; Jason Patrick, Westfield State; Anna Maria; Chris Chechile, Merrimack, Colby-Sawyer, Keene State; Rebecca Wing, Springfield College, Quinnipiac; Alex Carson, Northeastern; Jeff Gaylor, Westfield State, Springfield College; Kara Zambelli, Northeastern; Mike Domainque, Bridgewater State; Jennifer Giroux, U.Mass; Doreen McEwan, Holyoke Community; Melissa Montagna, Lyndon State; Mary Parrotta, Westfield State; Andrew Ingham, Saint Leo; Michael Perry, Sacred Heart; Corrie Antaya, Suffolk, Westfield State; Alisa Harvey, Westfield State.

Jamie Sternowski, Westfield State, Holyoke Community; Jessica Sassarone, Holyoke Community; David Murphy, Bridgewater State; Kelly Stoddard, Penn State, U.Mass, Keene State; Stephanie Biza, Springfield College, Bridgewater State; Erica Pratt, Springfield College; Rosemarie Oppedisano, University of Miami, Syracuse; Christine Mazelka, Westfield State; Jennifer Clarke, Hofstra, University of Miami; Melissa Murphy, University of Rhode Island; Bounchann Kheumun, Westfield State; Alison Reseigne,

Jason Bryant Accepted As Member Of Freshman Class At Johnson & Wales

The Admissions Office at Johnson & Wales has announced that Jason Bryant, a member of Agawam High School's class of 1996, has been accepted to the University.

Jason is the son of Alan and Janine Bryant of 21 Denise Lane, Feeding Hills. He plans to major in the culinary arts/hotel restaurant management.

Founded in 1914, Johnson & Wales University is

Assumption; Keith Paro, STCC, Greenfield Community; Viktor Adzhigirey, Western New England; Tim Conklin, Quinnipiac.

SCHOLARSHIPS - See your counselor for more information.

RMCC/Hacer Scholarship Program - Available to U.S. citizens who plan to enroll in a four-year college in the fall of 1996 and who have a least one parent who is of Hispanic heritage. Deadline: April 1, 1996.

Suffolk University Maria Stewart Scholarship - Open to minority students who plan to attend Suffolk. Deadline: April 1, 1996.

Springfield Garden Club Scholarship - Two \$1,000 scholarships are available for students planning studies in environmental programs as well as those in horticulture, floriculture, landscape design, conservation, city planning or botany. To qualify, a student must be a resident of Hampden County and must have a B average. Deadline: April 1, 1996.

Community Theatre Association Scholarship - Two \$500 scholarships will be awarded to students who plan to pursue a major in the theatrical arts. Deadline: April 8, 1996.

OPEN HOUSES - See your counselor for more information.

American International College - March 30th, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

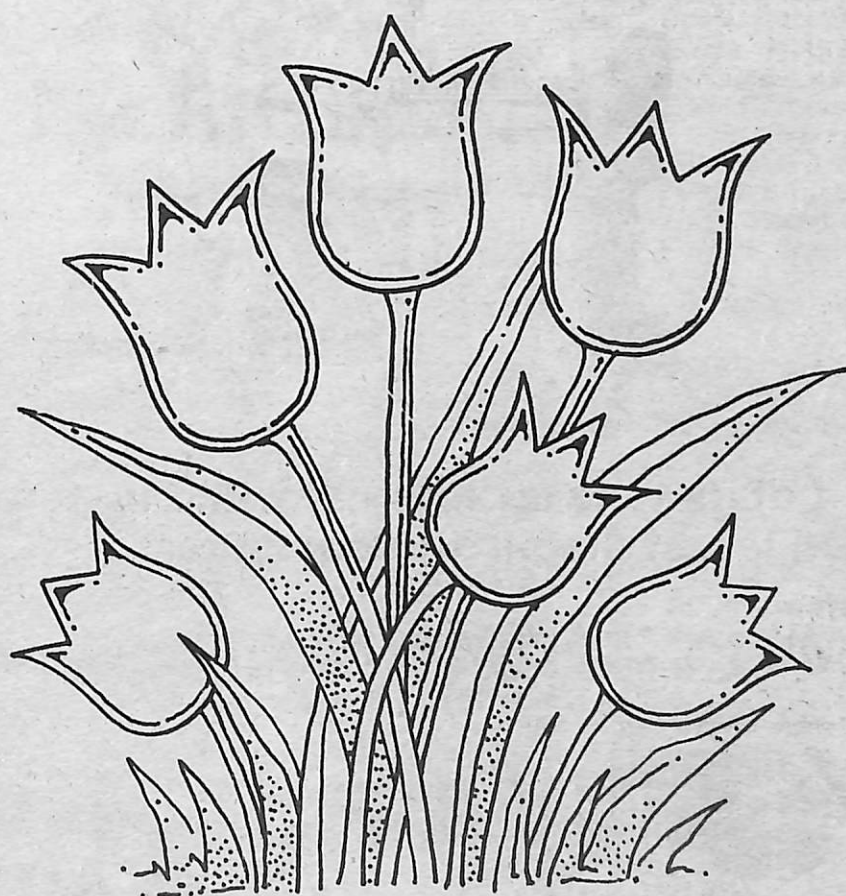
Smith College Preview Day - Open to Juniors who would like to learn more about Smith. April 2nd, 8:45 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.

Springfield Technical Community College - Thursday, April 18th, 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Learn more about all the departments at STCC.

a private, accredited institution offering undergraduate and graduate degrees in business, food service, hospitality, and technology.

With an enrollment of more than 10,000 students, Johnson & Wales is based in Providence, Rhode Island, and maintains campuses in Charleston, South Carolina, Norfolk, Virginia, North Miami, Florida, and Vail, Colorado.

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850 Springfield Street
Feeding Hills, MA 01030
786-4820



Positions Opening Agawam School Dept.

Executive Secretary To The Superintendent Of Schools - Agawam Public Schools -

Calendar Year - job description is available at the Associate Superintendent's Office - Application must be made in writing to the Superintendent, 1305 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills, MA 01030 no later than March 27, 1996 at 3:00 P.M.

Stenographer For The School Committee - Agawam Public Schools -

School Year - job description is available at the Associate Superintendent's Office - Application must be made in writing to the Superintendent, 1305 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills, MA 01030 no later than March 27, 1996 at 3:00 p.m.

Data Entry Person - Agawam Public Schools -

Minimum project time 200 hours - person must be knowledgeable in Micro Word Soft or willing to learn - Application must be made in writing to the Associate Superintendent, 1305 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills, Massachusetts 01030 no later than March 29, 1996 at 3:00 p.m.

Showroom Expansion Floorcovering Sale!

"To Serve You Better, We Are Adding 50% More Showroom Space!"

Warehouse Inventory Growing Daily!

NEW

100 % Cont. Filament Nylon With Stain Check Protection
15 Colorations
\$14.89 Sq. Yd.
Installed w/ 6 Lb. Rebond Pad

NEW

12' or 15' Plush Saxony
36 Colorations
\$18.89 Sq. Yd.

Heavier Plush Available

\$24.89 Sq. Yd.

Both Include Installation
w/ 6 Lb. Rebond Pad

Brown Sculpture Carpet
1 Color Only Available

\$13.89 Sq. Yd.

Installed w/ 6 Lb. Rebond Pad

NEW

Kid Proof Berber Carpet Unstainable!

Handles Traffic With Ease

\$22.85 Sq. Yd.

Installed w/ 6 Lb. Rebond Pad

Beautiful Patterned Berber

12' or 15' Widths
20 Decorator Colors

\$19.75 Sq. Yd.

Installed w/ 6 Lb. Rebond Pad

Level Loop Berber

20-Plus Colors

\$18.95 Sq. Yd.

Installed w/ 6 Lb. Rebond Pad

NEW

Kid Proof - Footprint Free
Plush Carpet. Will Not Stain!!
Intro. Specials On Now!

IN STOCK

Heavy Blue or Rose Saxony

\$15.49 Sq. Yd.

Installed w/ 6Lb. Rebond Pad

Heavy 100% Cont. Filament Nylon
Low, Super Dense Pile
Footprint Free

\$24.25 Sq. Yd.

Installed w/ 6 Lb. Rebond Pad

...No Interest! ...No Payment! ...Til June!!

Mannington Vinyl!
On Sale. Starts March 1st

Mannington Promos
12" x 12" Marbleized Patterns
Available in Beige, Taupe & Green

\$13.95 Sq. Yd.

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Black Diamond/
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Diamond/Grey Background

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Area's Largest Selection Of Ceramic Tile

Hundreds Of Imported
& Unique Tiles - Selected
Styles On Sale Now

4" x 4" White w/Grey Fleck
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Now **69¢** Sq. Ft.

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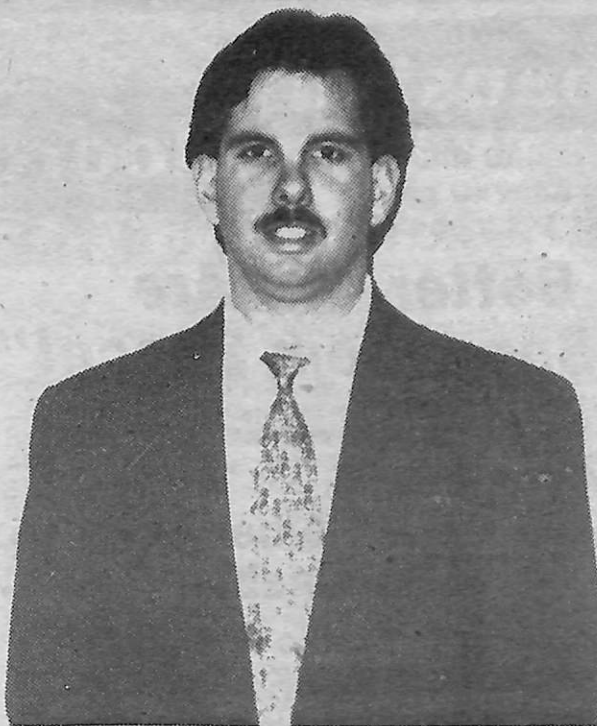
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DAVID LYNE



BARBARA CHAREST

Academic Awards For Two Town Residents At UMass-Lowell

Two Feeding Hills residents were honored at the seventh annual Academic Awards Ceremony held recently at the University of Massachusetts Lowell. Among the 195 students recognized were Alison M. Jean, a junior majoring in criminal justice, and Steven E. Munley, a sophomore majoring in music performance with sound recording technology emphasis.

The students honored represent the top 10 percent academically from the undergraduate student body of more than 10,000 students. All achieved a grade point average of 3.5 or better, with a group average of 3.68 (out of a possible 4.0).

With band playing, banners flying, and flower and linen-covered tables, the luncheon celebration was attended by over 500 students and family members and University leaders including Chancellor William T. Hogan, Vice Chancellors, and Deans of the University's eight colleges.

In his awards address, Dr. Paul Rahmeier, associate vice chancellor of Academic Affairs, described the festive event as a demonstration of how the University values academic achievement. He cited the students for being "optimistic, positively focused, and resilient."

All the local news with us, each week

Happy Sweet 16th Birthday Laura Rider



"LOVE"

Mom, Dad (Norm), Scott
And Your Whole Family

Four Town Residents Inducted To National Honor Society At AIC

The American International College chapter of Alpha Sigma Lambda, the national honor society for continuing education students, held its annual candlelight induction ceremony on Wednesday, March 13th. Twenty students were inducted into the honor society.

Among the inductees were Agawam residents **Michele Bilodeau**, **Barbara Charest** (Major: Business), and **Sandra Levesque** (Major: Human Resources), and Feeding Hills resident **David Lyne** (Major: Marketing).

Alpha Sigma Lambda recognizes the special achievements of adults who accomplish academic excellence while facing commitments of work and home.

Dean of Continuing Education Elizabeth Ayres said, "Adult students are unique; they bring in-

teresting experience to the classroom and they're not afraid to speak out. They're ideal students because they're in school to better themselves. And people who are trying to better themselves make teaching worthwhile."

Ayres continued, "You, continuing education students, define perseverance. You work, have family and community commitments, and still, you're in class, sometimes exhausted, but you're there and you're ready to learn."

Alpha Sigma Lambda inductees must have attended AIC for at least four semesters and have completed 30 semester hours of coursework. Membership is based on academic achievement only, and students must have a grade point average of at least 3.2.

For copies of his photos in this edition, contact Jack Devine at 789-0053.



The Agawam Soccer Association will be holding

**SIGN-UPS
for
FALL SOCCER**

March 30, 1996
10:00am - 2:00pm
Agawam Middle School

These sign-ups are for both

IN-TOWN & PIONEER VALLEY PROGRAMS
(Boys and Girls born between 8/1/79 and 7/31/91)

\$25.00 registration fee per child

\$60.00 Maximum per family

Child's Social Security Number and Date of Birth are Required
NOTE: Co-ed under 17 league will play on Sunday afternoons only!
A.S.A. Soccer Jackets will be on display and available for ordering

Agawam Piranha Swim Team Signups



Ages 5 through 18

March 30, 1996
10:00am - 2:00pm
Agawam Middle School

For more information about the summer swim program please call Steve Adamski at 789-2451



Sports

Riverside's Season Opener To Honor Driver Dave Caruso

On Saturday, March 23rd, Riverside Park Speedway becomes the first track in the Northeast to open. The NASCAR tour-type Modifieds, Pro Stocks, Late Models, and Strictly Stocks will be ready for the Budweiser "Big Chill."

However, someone special will be missing from the starting lineup ... missing, but not forgotten as a friend to racing.

Dave Caruso was one of the brightest talents ever to win a title at Riverside Park Speedway. He won in both the Modifieds and Pro Stocks. Ben Dodge described Caruso as a "natural talent, just starting to advance through the NASCAR system."

To further the memory of Caruso (who died from a heart attack), Dodge is creating a special night and program in honor of the Caruso family.

One of the key items that makes this so special is that Dodge is setting up a trust fund in Caruso's honor for his two nephews, 16 year-old Jeffrey Caruso and 17 year-old Keith Caruso. These two were the future of the Caruso racing name through a new generation past Dave. And now, more than ever, this is very important.

Both of these young men want to be like their uncle—a good driver in racing. So, with the efforts of the Riverside Speedway program volunteer sellers (used to raise money for the drivers' point fund), a special limited edition program with the help of Oswego Press will provide a special cover and book to honor Caruso.

All the money after expenses will then be given in full to a trust fund for Caruso's two nephews. The money may be used by them for anything that could advance their involvement in racing or education, as guided by brothers Mike and Paul Caruso.

Other special tributes to Caruso are also being planned by fellow drivers and friends like Herb Carlon of Suffield, CT. Carlon, a winning Strictly Stock driver, has produced a special multicolored memorial oval decal. This beautiful decal will be placed on every car on March 23rd.

Carlon and brother Rich (along with sister Patty) wanted to do something unique and special. "We all liked Dave, and this show everyone just how much. These decals will enhance the image of the IX and its driver," stated Carlon.

SEE RIVERSIDE SPEEDWAY - Page 38...

1995 AHS Grad Dina DeMarco Finding Home At Merrimack College

by Dave Rollins
Sports Editor

Most of Agawam's athletes of a year ago have gone on with their lives, either pursuing a career or higher education. Dina DeMarco, a three sport standout (soccer, basketball, softball) at AHS is well into her first year at Merrimack College in North Andover.

Dina is majoring in biology. It's a tough row to hoe. Last semester, she carried 18 credits, 15 of them in class. She also had three lab courses each week. In college, that's a heavy load for anyone. But she's handling it. Witness the fact that she made the Dean's List her first semester. She has 18 credits in the spring term.

Dina is living in a dorm at Merrimack. Was it co-ed? "Sure is," she laughed. Her roommate is a friend from AHS, Lisa Magnacca. When we talked to her, there seemed to be a lot of conversation and activity going on in the back ground. Did it affect her studies? "Not really. Things usually quiet down. And I can always go work in the big lounge in the dorm."

Just how different from high school is college? "It really is. You have to have a lot of responsibility here. No one is looking over your shoulder. You have to discipline yourself."

One of the toughest things any freshman must face when they walk onto that strange campus is making friends. Dina, who is personable anyway, said she had little trouble in that area. "I'm playing soccer, so I've met some nice people through that." She also noted that some former Brownie athletes and classmates are also attending Merrimack, including Carm Battista (baseball), Todd Boskiewicz (soccer, basketball), and Ryan Henderson (basketball).

Not Much Time To Get Home

Because of her heavy class load and the demands of soccer, she didn't get home that much during the first semester. "My parents came up for my soccer games, so we had a chance to see each other." Then she added, "I go home when I feel the need to go home."



DINA DEMARCO

She admits sometimes she misses home and always looks forward to her trips back to Agawam. But her friends at school keep her pretty busy.

She played soccer for the Warriors (Merrimack's nickname) last fall. As an 18 year-old freshman (she won't be 19 until July), Dina didn't start, but did get a chance to play in most of the games. She managed two goals and two assists on a team that won the New England 10 Conference.

She feels that the biggest difference in high school and college soccer, at least at Merrimack, isn't so much in the kids, but in the coaching. "The coaches here are laid back. At Agawam, my coaches (Bill O'Brien, soccer; Lou Conte, basketball; and Deb Lickley, softball) were more intense."

SEE DINA DEMARCO - Page 38...

RIVERSIDE PARK SPEEDWAY

SEASON OPENER "BUD BIG CHILL"

Saturday, March 23rd 6pm

- Nascar Modified
- Tour Type Special
- 75 Laps Time Trials
- Plus Pro Stocks 50 Laps
- Late Models & Strictly Stocks
- 18 Plus Race Events

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Good For 100 Ft x 50 Ft

Sale Thru March 28th

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5000 Sq. Ft.

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5,000 Sq. Ft.

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Pellitised Lime

3 For \$9.99 or \$3.99 ea. 40 Lb.

Cedar Mulch

"Insect Resistant"

3 For \$9.99 or \$3.99 ea. 3 Cu. Ft.

Scotts Moss Control

Granules

\$9.99

5,000 Sq. Ft.

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Grass Seed Sale!

Sunny Sun & Shade Shady

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5 Lb.

Next Generation Of Fuller Racing Family Will Hit The Pavement On March 23rd

Another generation of the Fuller racing family will hit the pavement at Riverside Park Speedway on Saturday, March 23rd, when the speedway is set to become the first NASCAR Modified track to open for 1996 with the four-division Budweiser "Big Chill" for tour-type Modifieds, Pro Stocks, Late Models, and Strictly Stocks.

Rob Fuller is the nephew of Jeff Fuller and Rick Fuller, as well as the son of Modified car owner Bob Fuller. Now in his mid 20's, he has the Fuller desire to drive and win races; and, like all the Fullers, he is not afraid of work and paying his dues in Modified racing.

Rob is also a crew member on the Start-Finish Motorsports team owned by Ben Dodge. Fact is, Dodge has been instrumental with the crew in helping Rob prepare for his first race on March 23rd.

The car (owned and prepared by Rob) is a state-of-the-art NASCAR tour-type Modified that was rebuilt from the ground up at Fyne Lyne Speed & Fabrication in Stafford, CT. The engine will be provided with the support of Rob's stepfather, Tony Corrente of the famed Tony's Auto Machine. The first-class Modified has all the ingredients to run up front.

Still, Rob is aware that because he is a Fuller, people will expect a lot from him. "Last year, I drove a Modified in warm-ups. I ran real well, so

we decided to put a car together," said Rob, who added, "My Start-Finish Motorsports team is like my family; they have supported me in this deal 100 percent, and they will all be here on opening night. This is a dream come true. Since I was a kid, I have always wanted this."

Uncles Jeff and Rick Fuller—along with his dad, Bob Fuller—have also been very supportive in an effort to provide Rob with the all the necessary information, help, and leadership. Rob will run a limited schedule of events at Riverside this season, as he is committed to his crew membership with Bruce Dell and the Start-Finish team on the Modified tour.

Rob Fuller won't be the only new face at Riverside on March 23rd. He will be joined by Renee Dupuis with her weekly Teto Modified ride. Marty Leary is also going to be a regular in the Modifieds, with a surprise new driver to also be announced as a rookie in the famed 2X.

So, come see history in the making at Riverside on March 23rd, beginning at 6:00 p.m. Adults are priced at just \$14.99 each, and kids 11 years of age and under are just \$2.99 each. The pit fee is \$18 with a NASCAR license and the pits open at 10:00 a.m., with the South Gate set to open at 4:00 p.m.

For more information, call (413) 786-9300, ext. 3264.

Robert Peloquin Ties Florida School Record

Robert Peloquin, a 1992 graduate of Agawam High School, recently tied a school record at Florida's Barry University by going five for six with five RBI's in an 18-14 baseball win over Nova Southeastern.

Peloquin is attending Barry University on a baseball scholarship.

For the season, Peloquin is batting .475 with seven doubles, a home run, eight RBI's, and 13 runs scored.

He is the son of Robert & Marlene Peloquin of Agawam.

Ag. Little League Sets Meeting For March 27

The Agawam Little League will hold a parent's meeting on Wednesday, March 27th at 7:00 p.m. at the Italian Sporting Club, 349 Cooper Street, Agawam.

RIVERSIDE SPEEDWAY - from Page 37...

Race fans are sure to be out in full force as the Budweiser "Big Chill" will honor Dave Caruso on March 23rd. They will have the chance to purchase the special program and share in the spirit of this talented driver who is greatly missed.

Tickets for the event are \$14.99 for adults, and \$2.99 for kids 11 years of age and under. The event is scheduled for 75 laps, including heats and time trials for the Modifieds plus the Pro Stocks, Late Models, and Strictly Stocks. The pits open at 10:00 a.m., and the pit fee for NASCAR members is \$18.

For more information, call 1-800-370-7488 (RACE DEPT *4) or (413) 786-9300, ext. 3264.

All the local news with us - AAN!!!

DINA DEMARCO - from Page 37...

She misses Agawam High, mostly because of the sports. "We were successful. The coaches all stressed team unity and there was a lot of emotion involved when we played."

Dina continues to follow all the AHS teams. "My sister, Jill, who plays basketball and lacrosse, keeps me up-to-date," she notes.

And she keeps in touch with many of her old classmates, including Kristen Schmaelzle, Shauna Naciewicz, and Katie LaBreck, to name a few.

She's playing spring soccer. "It's a year-round sport here," she says. She's a fine softball player, but that sport, for now at least, is out of the picture.

She does, however, play intramural basketball.

Sidelined While At AHS By Knee Problems

During her high school career, she had a slew of problems with her knees. Each one was operated on three times. The injuries were severe enough to keep her out of soccer and basketball in her senior year. Only her own singular resolve and self-confidence (AAN, Oct. 20, 1994) overcame the problem and allowed her to keep on playing.

Dina still has three-plus years to go at Merrimack. She plans on becoming a doctor, possibly in orthopedics, as a surgeon. "I might specialize on knees," she laughed. "I know all about the problems people can have with them."

She hopes to come home for the summer. But until then, she'll enjoy her new college career and everything it has to offer.

Check our classified pages every week!!!



Coughlin, Sullivan, & Associates

Drs. Coughlin and Sullivan would like to announce that **Dr. Keith Hollinger, DMD**, of Feeding Hills, has entered the practice of **Coughlin, Sullivan, & Associates** at 1795 Main Street in Springfield.

Dr. Hollinger will be a full-time dental associate practicing general dentistry for children and adults. Dr. Hollinger is a graduate of Tufts University School of Dental Medicine in Boston. He has recently completed a two-year residency program with the Indian Health Service in Ft. Wingate, New Mexico.

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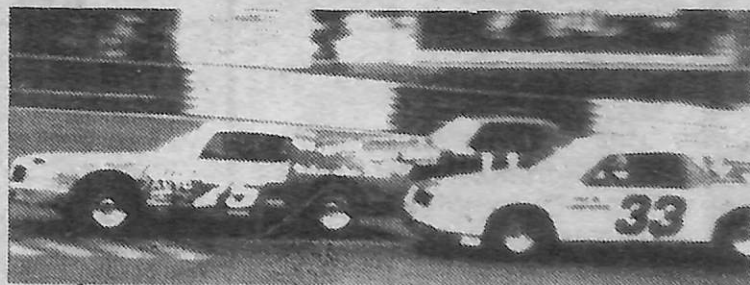
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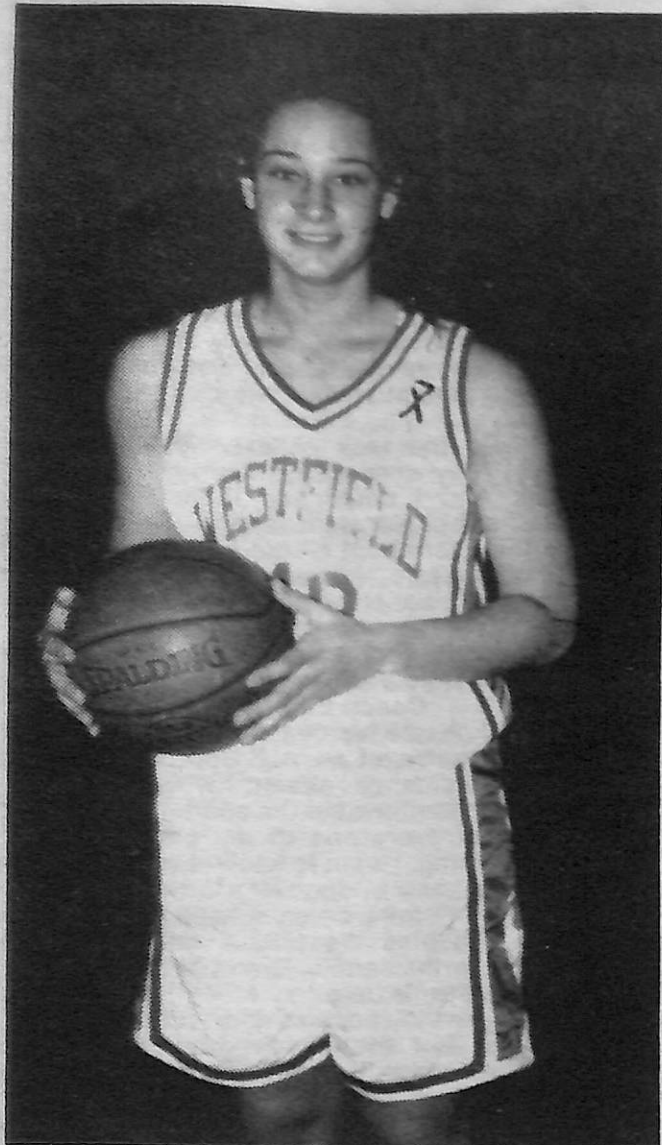
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KRISTEN SCHMAELZLE

Schmaelzle Finishes 1995-96 Season For WSC Women's Hoop

Former Agawam High School three sports star Kristen Schmaelzle has finished her freshman season as a member of the Westfield State College Lady Owls 1995-96 basketball team.

The Lady Owls finished with a 22-6 record and received a Division III bid in the NCAA Tournament under Coach Rick Berger.

Schmaelzle, a 1995 AHS graduate, played in 27 of the 28 games for the Lady Owls and averaged 6.3 points per game as a forward. Her high game was a 17-point effort against Our Lady of the Elms.

Roger Casavant Wins 3 Skiing Medals

Congratulations to Roger Casavant of 37 Ridgeway Drive for winning three Silver Medals at the Connecticut Senior Olympics recently at Ski Sundown in New Hartford, Connecticut.

Roger took away three silver medals in the men's downhill, giant slalom, and snowshoe races.

Congratulations and keep up the good work!



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More Girls From Tim Daggett Gold Gym Qualify For State Gymnastics Meet

Charles River Gymnastics was the scene of the latest sectional meet, and more of the girls from Tim Daggett Gold Medal Gymnastics (103 Gold Street, Agawam) qualified for States with a 32.0 or better.

Qualifying at Level 6, age 10-11, were Shannon DelGiudice (32.35 AA and 8.65 on Floor) and Devon Ehret (Second Place 34.4 AA, Second Place 9.0 Vault, and Second Place 8.65 Beam). Also competing at Level 6, age 10-11, was Emily Sharp (31.5 AA, Fifth Place 8.9 Vault).

At Level 6, age 12-13, was Rebekah Humphrey, who won Second Place on Vault with 8.9. At Level 7, age 12-14, was Erica Gildersleeve, who won Se-

cond AA (32.45), First Vault (9.4), and First Floor (8.35).

Great job, girls!

At Whip City in Southwick, three of Daggett's Level 5 gymnasts competed for Sectionals and earned achievement awards for individual and all-around events. Qualifying (31.0 or more) was Abby Hazen with a 31.7 All-Around.

Competing in their first meets ever for USA Gymnastics were Stephanie LaManna (33.3 All-Around; 9.0 on Floor) and Whitney Quist (33.2 All-Around; 9.1 on Bars).

Congratulations, girls!

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Four Teams Vying For Top Spot In Tri-Parish Bowling

As the third round rolls along in the Monday night Tri-Parish Bowling League at the Agawam Bowl, four teams, led by Catholic University (11½ wins), are at a log-jam for the top spot. St. Michael's, Boston College, and Notre Dame all have 11 wins in what is shaping up to be a wild fight to the finish for the round title.

CU faced fifth place St. Mary (10 wins) and had a strong night indeed. CU winners were leadoff TAMMY VOGEL (305, huge night for Tammy - 78.25 in Women's C), TOM "Not Tony" CURTIS (370, 103.23 in Men's AA), and Captain BILL GRIFFIN (320, 102.43 in Men's AA).

The only winner for St. Mary's was second roller VENETTA SNYDER (295, 90.40 in Women's A). Captain JOHN LONCRINI could only powder-puff a lowly 281 (99.49 in Men's AA).

Next up was the battle between second place St. Michael's and fourth place Notre Dame. St. Mike's winners were leadoff JEAN BUONICONTI (284, 95.24 in Women's AA), second roller MAYBETH "Miss Consistent" COUGHLIN (297, 92.59 in Women's A), VI MASSOIA (292, 93.58 in Women's A), and Captain JERRY ALLEN, the league's top gun (351, 115.8 in Open Class).

Jerry defeated a very tough ND Captain FLO ROCHFORD (338). She continues to lead the women in rolling at 106.33.

Seventh place St. Louis (6 wins) faced sixth place Fordham (9 wins) in the next match. And Fordham took three wins. Leading the way were leadoff LINDA TOBEY (262, 77.55 in Women's C), third roller TERRY CERPOVICZ (297, 93.17 in Women's A), and Captain "Jollie" OLLIE MULDER, a 346-334 conquerer of St. Lou Captain GLEN ADAMS.

The "Jollie" one rolls at a 112.6 clip and is now chasing J. Allen for the overall lead. He will be "Jollie" Ollie once again if he can regain the lead. Mr. Adams is at a 109.21 clip in Men's AA, good for first place. The only winner for St. Lou was second roller KIM LACROIX (317, leads Women's B at 93.44).

Last place Holy Cross (2½ wins) had a pretty good night against eighth place St. Anselm (5 wins). HC winners were leadoff MARSHA DOBIE (293, 83.19 in Women's C), JOHN MILNICK (291, leads Men's B at 95.41), and SUE GRIFFIN (306-305 over YVONNE CHARTIER; Sue is at 99.8 in Women's AA).

SEE BOWLERS - Page 41...

The Future Is Awesome For Girls' Hoop At Agawam High Under Lou Conte

by Dave Rollins
Sports Editor

For the past decade, girls' basketball has been one of the more successful sports at Agawam High School (three Western Mass. titles, six Valley Wheel crowns). It was no different this time around. Though they didn't win Western Mass., they did take the Wheel title again, finishing up at 16-4 with a semi-final tournament loss to Taconic.

Lou Conte looked back on the just completed season. And even though they didn't go as far as they would have liked, he was satisfied with the way things went. "If you'd have asked me at the start of the year if I thought we'd do as well as we ended up doing, I'd have said a performance like that would have been a good run."

They lost their first two games by a total of eight points (79-73 in overtime to Monument Mountain and 52-50 in West Side). Those setbacks told the coach something about his club.

"Both those teams were good. (West Springfield and Monument ended up being the top seeds in Division I and II, respectively). Early on, those two tough games showed us we could compete."

And compete they did, running off 12 straight wins before losing to Cathedral on February 13th. They went on to win four more in a row, including a tournament victory over Longmeadow (before the semi-final setback).

Different Team This Year

It was a different Brownie team this season. "We'd been a half-court club the last eight years," the coach noted. "We would bang it in and score."

Those were the years of Cindy Stone and Kristen Schmaelzle and the outside shooting of Dina DeMarco. This time around, the offense was based on an up-tempo game behind sophomore sensation Kristen Patterson, freshman star Barbara Maloni, and a good supporting cast of sprinters and shooters. Conte acknowledged that it is a fun type of game, where points come off of turnovers and perimeter marksmanship.

It was a different style and it demanded a dif-

ferent style of coaching. The kids were younger (seven underclassmen, including three freshmen, two sophomores, two juniors, and four seniors) and they were revved up like race cars. The coach had to be patient when the kids made the usual mistakes.

How did the lack of experience enter into things? "They were always learning, gaining confidence. And I could see them making great strides as the year went along." The coach also noted that just about all the kids play basketball in the off-season. "Players are made from March to November, not November to March," he said.

They were anchored by the steady play of seniors Jamie Thomas, Courtne Hyland, Steph Biza, and Jennie VanGys.

Coach Earns An 'A'

How did he rate his coaching performance this year? "I give myself an 'A,'" Conte said, displaying the confidence shared by all successful coaches, no matter what the sport. "I feel I got the most out of every one of my players. But I'm always learning. I want to know it all, but you can really never know enough."

Conte didn't think being seeded number two in Division I, behind West Side, hurt them. Both teams lost in the semi's. Eventual champion Pittsfield beat the Terriers.

His biggest disappointment was losing that last game. But the coach was philosophical. "Ninety-five percent of all teams lose their last game in a season."

He was pleased to see the young kids coming through and the effectiveness of their transition game. Their sixth Valley Wheel title was also nice.

As anyone who follows sports knows, being a head coach is about as precarious as walking a tightrope blindfolded. "Hopefully, I'll be back," he smiled. Then he added, "But who can predict the future?"

For the present, Conte will tend to his duties as assistant boss at the Middle School and maybe get in some golf when the links thaw out.

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Riverside Park Speedway Puts To Rest Many Rumors Circulating This Winter

Where would racing be without rumors? Have you ever noticed that once the season begins in racing, the rumors shift to more productive things as Riverside Park Speedway becomes the first track in the Northeast to open?

On Saturday, March 23rd, the NASCAR tour-type Modifieds, Pro Stocks, Late Models, and Strictly Stocks will fire up for the Riverside Budweiser "Big Chill." So the management of Riverside Park Speedway would like to address some of the more popular (and ridiculous) rumors of 1996 to put an end to these untrue statements of racing gossip.

* Rumor number one: Has Riverside Park been sold?

No, Riverside Park—New England's largest family-owned amusement park—has not been sold. The ridiculous rumor of a major amusement company buying the park is totally false. It is not for sale and will continue to be operated by the Carroll family.

Third-generation members of the Carroll family are already in place in an effort to expand the family amusement park through several successful generations. The Carroll family and its Riverside Park operation are highly respected throughout the country.

* Rumor number two: Is Riverside Speedway closing at the end of this year?

No, Riverside Park Speedway is not going to close. The speedway is one of the most successful departments in the Carroll-owned company. Riverside Speedway is the number-one ranked short track in NASCAR with one of the highest weekly attendance records in the country.

Riverside Speedway, under Ben Dodge's reign, has received every national award of accomplishment noted through sanction bodies, promoter groups, and business forums. The speedway is one of the most unique and important departments in the overall success of the amusement

park operation.

Therefore, NASCAR auto racing at Riverside Park Speedway is a proud part of the Western Massachusetts sports scene and will continue to be a feature attraction.

* Rumor number three: Is Director of Racing Ben Dodge, Jr. going to leave Riverside Park Speedway as its administrator?

After 20 years of leadership, any individual who enjoy a competitive challenge always looks to expand on his success. When Ben Dodge decides to make that commitment or the Carrolls decide to end the 20-year success story of the speedway, a change will then occur.

No one should be directly concerned, however, as the speedway would continue based on many of the award-winning policies that Riverside Speedway is known for.

* Rumor number four: Is Riverside Speedway going to be able to open on March 23rd, or has the river flooded or is there too much snow?

Yes, the speedway is preparing for its best opener ever on March 23, 1996. The "Big Chill" will feature the tour-type Modifieds, Pro Stocks, Late Models, and Strictly Stocks at 6:00 p.m. Admission is \$14.99 for adults, and \$2.99 for kids 11 years of age and under.

As for the snow, it is not a problem; the grandstand is clear and in excellent condition. The riverbank is high, but nowhere near flood conditions. Thus, a threat of water problems for the opener is not a major problem, and the first show should be run on March 23rd.

To sum it up, business is as usual at Riverside Park and the speedway. If anyone has any doubts about the speedway, just call the Race Department at (413) 786-9300, ext. 3264, and Ben Dodge or his staff will personally answer any of the aforementioned rumors as Riverside prepares for the 1996 racing season on March 23rd.

Games And Lanes Indoor Soccer Leagues (Standings As Of 3/17/96)

U-11 GIRLS	W	L	T	P
East Longmeadow	4	0	0	8
West Springfield Blue	3	1	0	6
West Springfield White	2	2	0	4
Agawam Tigers	1	3	0	2
Our Lady Of Hope	0	4	0	0

U-10 GIRLS	W	L	T	P
Northampton	3	0	1	7
Holyoke	3	0	1	7
Ludlow Strike Force	2	2	0	4
Westfield Breeze	2	2	0	4
Lent's Landscaping	1	3	0	2
Ludlow Raptors	0	4	0	0

U-9 BOYS	W	L	T	P
Holyoke D&S Plating	2	0	1	5
Agawam Attack	2	0	1	5
East Longmeadow	1	2	0	2
Westfield	0	3	0	0

U-17 BOYS HIGH SCHOOL DIVISION	W	L	T	P
Razors	2	0	0	4
Holyoke Soccer Club	1	1	0	2
Bruno's	0	1	0	0
Westfield	0	1	0	0

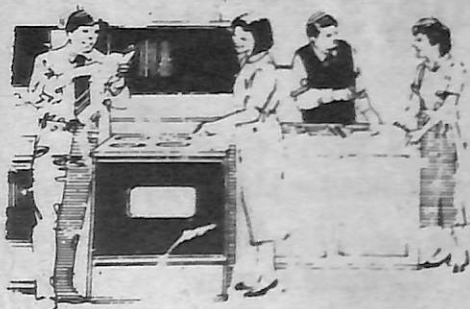
All the local news with us, each week

BOWLERS - from Page 40...

The only St. A's winner was none other than "Luscious" LOU MULDER, 312-307 over famous HC Captain DEBBIE POIRIER (105.61 in Open Class). "Luscious" Lou is at 110.62 in the Open Class.

Third place BC was the bye team this week. The scores were DAVE ALDRICH (271), STELLA BARBIERI (227), LARRY FORTIER (308), and "Jungle" JIM MCCORMICK (315).

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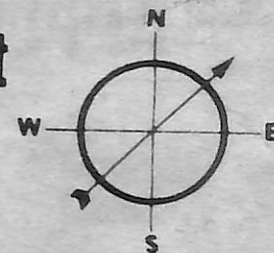
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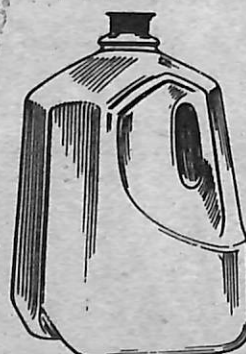
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